



DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Gill, Hardik boost for India against SA

Surya's men kick off T20 WC preparations
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Trump Media to invest Rs 1 lakh crore in Telangana's 'Future City'

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Father will remain CM for full term, says Yathindra

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Business
IBM to buy Confluent for \$9.3 bn

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IndiGo chaos: Govt talks of strict action to set example

Civil Aviation Minister blames airline for inept handling of rostering



IndiGo 'profusely apologetic'
IndiGo on Monday sought more time from the DGCA to respond to its show-cause notices to its top officials on disruption in its services, claiming that it is "realistically not possible to pinpoint the exact cause(s)" within a short span of time even as it was "profusely apologetic" about the hardship caused to passengers.

MINISTER NAIDU IN PARLIAMENT
Ministry had multiple meetings with stakeholders before the implementation of new FDTL norms

- Some airlines had sought some variations owing to the nature of operations and they were allowed
- There were "a lot of internal complications" with IndiGo and the airline should have maintained its affairs properly
- Ministry had a meeting with IndiGo on Dec 1 on FDTL implementation but airline had not flagged any issue

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

An investigation is underway to establish the reasons for the IndiGo fiasco and strict action will be taken to set an example for any non-compliance in future, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday told the Rajya Sabha, blaming the airline for bungling the crew rostering and internal planning.

In his first comments in Parliament on the issue, Naidu responded to queries from MPs during the Question Hour insisting that there will be no compromise on the issue of safety, even as the Opposition walked out of the House claiming that they were unsatisfied with the minister's response.

The issue was also raised in the Lok Sabha, with the Opposition demanding an immediate statement by the minister. Speaker Om Birla said Naidu will make a detailed statement.

Future tense, say B'luru tour operators

**KORAH ABRAHAM**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly a week since the start of the IndiGo crisis and amid continued flight cancellations, tour operators and travel agencies in Bengaluru find themselves facing uncertainty.

Some operators that *DH* spoke to said the past week was nothing but a cycle of rebooking/rescheduling tickets, fielding angry calls and managing anxious customers.

Karthik, manager, Nesara Tours LLP, said for his company, the scale of disruption caused by the crisis has been unprecedented. "In the last week, more than 20 flights that we booked were cancelled," he told *DH*.

"Some of our customers who were supposed to return to the city on Friday, were stranded after their flight was cancelled. They only managed to get back two days later, that too after we booked them on a different flight," said Karthik, who added that although IndiGo had rescheduled their flight for Tuesday, it wasn't confirmed.

What frustrated agents and passengers is that in most cases of flight cancellations, passengers or operators had to pay out of their own pockets for accommodations and other arrangements.

► **Tour operators, Page 6**

Malayalam actor Dileep acquitted in actor rape case



Dileep, after his acquittal, in Ernakulam on Monday.PTI

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Malayalam actor Dileep has been acquitted in the 2017 actor abduction and rape case that had rocked Kerala.

Among the 10 accused in the case, accused one to six were found guilty of various offences, including gang rape. They were directly involved in the abduction and rape of a popular south Indian actress at Kochi on February 17, 2017.

Four others, including Dileep, who were accused of conspiracy and helping the accused, were found not guilty.

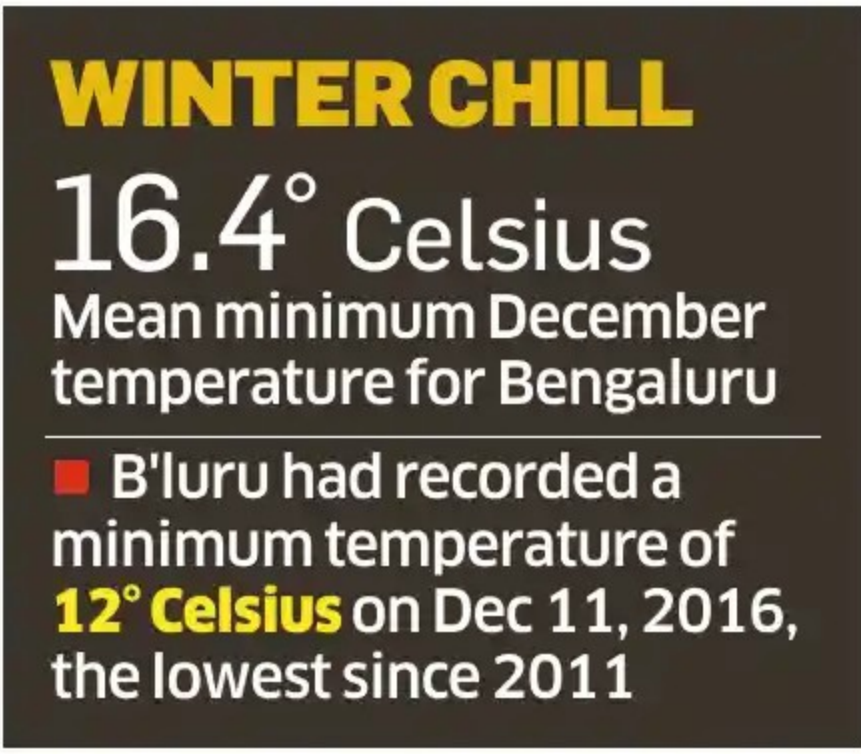
Ernakulam principal sessions judge Honey M Varghese delivered the judgment.

The actress was abducted and sexually assaulted by a gang led by key accused Sunil N S alias Pulsar Suni in a moving car. On her complaint, all the gang members were arrested within weeks. Dileep was arrested on July 10, 2017 and was in remand for nearly three months till he got bail.

The prosecution case was that Dileep hired the gang to attack the actress as she earlier informed Dileep's then wife Manju Warrier about Dileep's relationship with actress Kavya Madhavan.

► **Dileep, Page 6**

B'luru nights may get colder; mercury could drop to 12 deg C



WINTER CHILL
16.4° Celsius
Mean minimum December temperature for Bengaluru
B'luru had recorded a minimum temperature of 12° Celsius on Dec 11, 2016, the lowest since 2011

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nights in Bengaluru are likely to get colder over the next few days, with the minimum temperature, which has remained close to 16 degrees Celsius over the last week, expected to drop to as low as 12 degrees Celsius over the next week.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a cold wave for North and Central India in the next few days. While the temperature in Bengaluru may not go too low, it will still be below normal with foggy mornings.

According to IMD data, mean minimum temperature for Bengaluru in December is 16.4 degrees Celsius.

On Sunday, Bengaluru's minimum temperature was 16 degrees Celsius. "The temperature will hover between 12 degrees Celsius and 14 degrees Celsius this week. However, after this week, normal winter temperature may prevail," C S Patil from the IMD Bengaluru, told *DH*.

The last time Bengaluru's minimum temperature fell to 12 degrees Celsius in December was on December 11, 2016, the lowest since 2011 for December. "The chill is mostly due to Northeasterly winds, clear sky, dry winds and stable air," Patil said.

MULTI-LEVEL

Namma Metro to have 3 of India's tallest stations



MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Two Namma Metro stations under Phase 3 will rise taller than the Jayadeva Hospital station, currently the tallest in India, according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRL).

Goraguntepalya and Mysuru Road will have rail levels of 33 metres and 32 metres, respectively.

Jayadeva Hospital, an interchange between Yellow and Pink lines, stands over 29 metres at rail level and 38 metres at roof level, making it the tallest metro station in the country.

Phase 3 will have two corridors. The

GORAGUNTEPALYA
(5 levels; rail level: 33 m)
Street level: Entry/exit, parking;
Level 1: Green Line station; **Level 2:** Flyover;
Level 3: Concourse + unpaid foot overbridge;
Level 4: Orange Line platforms and tracks

MYSURU ROAD
(6 levels; rail level: 32 m)
Street level: Entry/exit, DG room, parking, etc;
Level 1: Unpaid foot overbridge to the road across; **Level 2:** Commercial space; **Level 3:** Flyover (elevated road); **Level 4:** Foot overbridge to Purple Line station; **Level 5:** Orange Line platforms and tracks

halli to Kadabagere along Magadi Road.

Both lines will include 37.151-km double-decker structures, with the metro line above the flyover. Like Jayadeva Hospital, Mysuru Road station will also have six levels but exceed its rail level by more than two metres.

A senior BMRL official confirmed to *DH* that both Goraguntepalya and Mysuru Road stations will indeed be taller than Jayadeva Hospital, adding another feather in Namma Metro's cap.

The detailed project report had proposed the Green-Orange interchange at Peenya, with the alignment turning left after the Kanteerava Studio flyover and passing through Raja Industrial Estate.

► **Metro, Page 6**

Nehru truncated Vande Mataram to bow to Muslim League: PM

Modi says chance to restore song's glory in its 150th year



Narendra Modi
PM
Priyanka Gandhi Vadra
Congress MP

Congress compromised on Vande Mataram and, as a result, had to accept the decision of the country's partition. Congress' policies have remained the same.

"... Whatever complaints you have against (Jawaharlal) Nehru ... if you want to hurl abuses, ... 999 insults... make a list. Let's close the chapter once and for all."

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee had written the first two stanzas of the song in the 1870s but in the book Anandamath, he had written a longer version which has references to Hindu gods and goddesses.

Modi said that when Vande Mataram completed 50 years, the country was under the British. "When it completed 100 years, the nation was under Emergency; now, at 150 years, we have the opportunity to restore its glory," the PM said, adding that the debate has given an opportunity to

younger leaders to "learn more about our history".

"Bankim da wrote Vande Mataram at a time when it had become fashionable to look down upon India," Modi said. A Bengal lawmaker corrected him, and Modi then called the writer Bankim Babu.

"Nowhere in world history is there a song that inspired crores of people for so many decades and moved them to sacrifice for a cause. Mahatma Gandhi wrote that Vande Mataram had become so popular it emerged as our national anthem," he added.

Goa nightclub fire: Owners fled to Thailand after tragedy

PANAJI, PTI: Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra, the main accused and owners of the Goa nightclub where a massive blaze claimed 25 lives, fled to Phuket hours after the tragedy, Goa Police said on Monday.

"Goa Police have taken further steps to coordinate with the Interpol Division of the CBI to apprehend both Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra at the earliest," a senior police officer said.

The revelation came after Saurabh Luthra, one of the owners, used social media on Monday to express "profound grief" and vowed to provide assistance, support and cooperation to the victims' families in "every possible form".

A massive fire at the nightclub, some 25 kilometres away from Panaji, on late Saturday night killed 25 persons.

The deceased comprised 20 employees of the nightclub and five tourists, including four from Delhi.

Police investigations so far have indicated multiple irregularities at the entertainment venue, including absence of a No Objection Certificate from the fire department and issuance of licence without proper documentation.

► **Goa, Page 6**

**MARUTI SUZUKI**

NEXA

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FRESH FEES, FRESH FURY: BIAL likely to impose proposed charges by December 12; cab drivers plan protests

Minister seeks waiver or cut in overstay fees

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), has deferred the implementation of the new overstay charges until further notice.

The new rules were set to be enforced from Monday onwards.

As per the rules, private vehicles will get eight minutes of free stay. They will be charged Rs 150 for 8-13 minutes and Rs 300 for 13-18 minutes. Vehicles staying beyond 18 minutes will be towed to the nearest police station, with fines added. Commercial vehicles must wait at designated parking zones, where they will get 10 minutes of complimentary parking. After that, cab drivers will have to pay Rs 150 for a half-an-hour slot.

A BIAL spokesperson said that the implementation of the new measures had been postponed with the intent "to wait for the recent disruptions in flight operations across the country to stabilise".

"The new measures, aimed at improving the landside experience, will be introduced as planned at the Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 arrival kerbsides. The revised effective date for implementation will be communicated within the next day or so," BIAL said.

As per an airport source, the revised date is expected to be December 11-12, once flight operations stabilise.

Drivers confused

While both terminals have information boards displaying the new overstay charges, cab drivers on the ground remain



A board put up at the arrival pickup zone at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru displays the overstay charges for private vehicles. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

"We were under the impression that the overstay fines are for us — yellow-board vehicles. We didn't know we would directly be guided to the parking area, and no longer be allowed in the pick up lane."

- Rangaswamy, 44, a driver.

"If we're confined to the parking zone, I'm unsure how we'll be able to get customers. Now, we pick up customers when they walk out of the arrival gate. If we're not allowed there, it will severely hit our business."

- Driver

As per the new rules...

- Private vehicles will get eight minutes of free stay. They will be charged **Rs 150** for 8-13 minutes and **Rs 300** for 13-18 minutes.

- Vehicles staying beyond 18 minutes will be towed to the nearest police station, with fines added.

- Commercial vehicles must wait at designated parking zones, where they will get 10 minutes of complimentary parking.

- After that, cab drivers will have to pay Rs 150 for a half-an-hour slot.

New rules are unfair: Minister

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has written to BIAL calling for the overstay fees to be withdrawn or significantly reduced.

In the letter, he stated how the new norms would cause severe financial hardship for cab drivers, and also requested a dedicated grace period to accommodate passenger movement and unfore-

seen delays.

"The new rules are unfair to private and yellow-board vehicles. The airport is a dynamic environment, have they accounted for how such rules might impact senior citizens or the differently abled? Instead, what they can do is deploy more people on the ground to ensure the traffic keeps moving uninterrupted," he told DH.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and other local leaders for support.

G Narayanaswamy, president of Karnataka Chalakara

Okkuta, is planning a protest when the new rules are set in or the day after. "We will not let them bring in such unfair rules," he told DH.

IndiGo flight disruptions: KIA struggles as flyers remain stranded

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

A week after mass cancellations crippled IndiGo's network, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is slowly returning to normal.

However, 140 flights were cancelled on Monday, and passengers continue to face high rebooking costs, heavy financial losses, and delays in recovering baggage.

Overcrowding at Terminal 1 has eased, but many flyers remain stranded, forced to use road transport and wait hours for luggage and refunds.

Flights to Kochi, Jaisalmer, Gorakhpur, Hyderabad, Delhi, Indore, Mangaluru, Coimbatore, Chennai, Surat, and Goa were cancelled on day seven.

Mohammed Anas, whose 6.45 pm flight to Kochi was cancelled, missed the Kerala local body elections. "Nobody from IndiGo is here at the airport. I had booked a room in the city for two days," he said.

Forced to spend more on hotels and taxis, he is now considering a long bus trip after losing an estimated Rs 50,000.

"No early notification, no response from IndiGo," he added.

Misplaced baggage

Misplaced baggage remains an issue.

Pankaj, a businessman, recalled luggage delivered 48

Cancelled Flights						Page 1 of 2
STD	ETD	Airline	Flt No	Destination	Status	Gate
14:05	13:05	IndiGo	6E 6837	Jaisalmer	Cancelled	
14:55	14:55	IndiGo	6E 436	Gorakhpur	Cancelled	
15:15	15:15	IndiGo	6E 181	Hyderabad	Cancelled	
15:30	15:30	IndiGo	6E 843	Delhi	Cancelled	
16:05	16:05	IndiGo	6E 6743	Indore	Cancelled	
16:20	16:20	IndiGo	6E 109	Mangalore	Cancelled	
16:45	16:45	IndiGo	6E 6012	Chennai	Cancelled	
16:45	16:45	IndiGo	6E 814	Coimbatore	Cancelled	
17:10	17:10	IndiGo	6E 6008	Surat	Cancelled	
17:20	17:20	IndiGo	6E 974	Goa-Manohar	Cancelled	

Nearly 140 IndiGo flights were cancelled on Monday, disrupting travel plans for many.



hours late by IndiGo after an Abu Dhabi trip. "A lot of mismanagement is taking place, they lift your baggage after a day," he said.

Another elderly man waited three hours at the terminal to retrieve luggage from a flight cancelled on December 4.

Stranded flyers face soaring travel costs. Sanchith from Bhopal,

whose flight was cancelled, was quoted Rs 50,000 for a rebooking on Air India with a 14-hour Mumbai layover.

Pankaj estimates his costs after his December 4 cancellation at Rs 40,000 to 50,000, with no refund from IndiGo.

With hotel prices rising, passengers like Anas must travel over an hour to find affordable accommodation.

Many Sabarimala pilgrims were left stranded, their plans in jeopardy.

The crisis has forced travellers to waste time and money seeking alternative buses and trains to destinations such as Patna and Jaisalmer.

Airport cab drivers lose earnings as IndiGo crisis slashes demand

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

What began as a jackpot for the city's taxi services during the chaos of IndiGo's flight cancellations has quickly turned into a financial setback.

Cab aggregators and private operators now report a significant drop in business at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

Over 10,000 airport taxi drivers fear that widespread publicity surrounding the crisis and high pricing have deterred passengers, forcing losses. "Yesterday, the passengers were fewer. After the flight cancella-

tions, the number of people heading into the city has reduced," said Ansar Pasha, a private taxi driver.

On Thursday, the day of the mass cancellations, demand was at its peak. "Now, there is no demand. People are not coming," he said.

Ansar reported that while his private charge to Majestic is currently Rs 1,200 (for instance, the fixed night charge is Rs 26 per km between 12 am and 5 am, up from the regular Rs 24 per km), other private cabs are still quoting between Rs 1,800 and Rs 3,000 in an attempt to recoup earnings. This contrasts with app-based rates of Ola and Uber, which typically charge Rs 840 and Rs 900 to the city.



Taxis line up outside the Bengaluru airport.

App-based pricing

Drivers also shed light on how app-based pricing works.

Ola and Uber commission-based rates are governed by dynamic pricing algorithms using flight data to set daily rates.

However, many drivers argue that the losses from falling demand are borne heavily by them. Now, they fear the lack of steady passenger flow will force them to keep demanding higher, off-app fares to compensate for the drop in business volume.

Flight chaos triggers hotel price surge near KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: Widespread IndiGo flight cancellations have left thousands stranded at the Kempegowda airport, triggering a revenue boom for hotels and nearby businesses, as stranded flyers face soaring room rates and steep cab fares.

A surge in demand for accommodation, especially on Thursday night when hundreds of flights were cancelled — many on busy routes such as Delhi and Mumbai — has sent prices for rooms and local transport soaring.

While hotels gain, flyers face distress as they were forced to pay unexpected costs to stay

"They call Bengaluru world-class. But when one airline fails, everything — from hotels to cabs — becomes daylight robbery."

Senthil Kumar
(trying to reach Jaisalmer)

near the airport and reschedule. Managers of nearby hotels confirmed a rapid sell-out.

One hotel, about 5 km from the airport, usually charging Rs 3,938 (for a standard room), quoted Rs 11,000 per night on December 4. "Last Thursday night, it was fully packed and completely sold out," said the manager, adding that only two

or three vacancies remained on Monday.

Another hotel, which charges Rs 3,300, demanded over Rs 10,000 for a single night during the cancellations.

Preeti, a techie attempting to reach Delhi for a family emergency, said, "The money I paid to the cab was equal to a hotel room rent for Rs 2,500 in the city. As I could not afford the hotels near the airport, which were quoting Rs 7,000 to Rs 10,000, I took a cab to the city. It felt like the city is punishing us for IndiGo's failures, I demand that the airlines bear the cost of our lodging and alternate transportations."

Activists: GBA's handling of SC order flawed, 184 dogs picked up without due procedure

BENGALURU, DHNS

Animal activists in the city have alleged that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the five corporations have shifted about 184 stray dogs without following due procedure.

The corporation, attempting to comply with the Supreme Court direction to move stray dogs in public places to shelters, have failed to follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) laid down by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

"The Supreme Court order requires designated shelters with specific dimensions, as determined under the SOP of AWBI to be fixed by the GBA. The temporary shelters proposed by the GBA, which are Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres, are not part of this



procedure," said Sathwik Putta, a lawyer with South Bengaluru Cares.

Samyukta Hornad, actor and founder of Praana Foundation, opined that such a move will also affect the ABC programme.

"The apex court order is completely illogical. What is

worse is the GBA's implementation of the order. They do not have kennels. These temporary shelters are nothing but ABC centres. If the ABC centres are filled with these healthy dogs, who is going to do ABC?" she said.

Activists also pointed out that the GBA had not planned

the process and had instead hastily caught the dogs.

"The chronology with which the Supreme Court order and AWBI SOP is to be implemented by the GBA is through identification, fencing, nodal officer appointment, vaccination and neutering, identifying designated permanent shelters and then, only then, catching dog." But they are catching dogs before even fencing these identified areas.

"It completely contradicts the Supreme Court order and runs in contempt of court. This is state-sponsored cruelty," said Alwyn Sebastian, an animal rights lawyer.

"You need time, funds and infrastructure to build shelters and implement this order and the same cannot be implemented in haste," said Mallika Menon, Trustee, CARE.

New Director (O&M) for Namma Metro

BENGALURU, DHNS: Alok Sahay, a 1991-batch Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) officer, has been appointed the Director of Operations and Maintenance at the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRC), two officials in the know said.

On December 5, the Railway Board approved his deputation to the BMRC up to his superannuation (July 31, 2028) or until further orders.

Sahay will be relieved from the East Coast Railway (ECOR) in Bhubaneswar, where he is presently working as Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE).

NM Dhoke, the previous Director (O&M), superannuated in February. Sumit Bhatnagar, Director (Rolling Stock and Electrical), had been placed in concurrent charge since.

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Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	J&L
Swiss Paris Austria Germany (6D)	150K-200K	85K-115K	Highlights of Scandinavia(7D)	250K-275K	175K-200K	200K-225K	130K-155K	90K-110K	Vienna Prague Budapest (6D)	150K-175K
European Panorama (8D)	250K-260K	180K-190K	Best of Scandinavia (10D)	335K-360K	250K-275K	275K-300K	205K-230K	175K-200K	Vienna Prague Budapest	250K-275K
European Splendours (10D)	275K-285K	205K-215K	All of Scandinavia (15D)	475K-500K	385K-400K	375K-400K	305K-330K	170K-195K	Berlin Warsaw Krakow (8D)	240K-265K
London Paris Swiss Italy (9D)	285K-295K	205K-215K	Scandinavia Iceland (15D)	565K-590K	480K-505K	335K-360K	260K-285K	250K-275K	Croatia Slovenia Slovakia Hungary(12)	325K-350K
European Highlights (11D)	300K-310K	220K-230K	Scandinavia+Eastern Europe(17)	525K-550K	440K-465K	375K-400K	295K-320K	325K-350K	Uzbekistan Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan(30)	225K-250K
European Delight (13D)	365K-375K	285K-295K	Scandinavia Russia (17D)	435K-460K	350K-375K	200K-225K	135K-160K	170K-195K	Georgia Armenia Baku (10D)	225K-250K
European Jewels (15D)	395K-410K	315K-330K	Scandinavia Midnight Sun(16D)	515K-540K	435K-450K	250K-275K	185K-205K	175K-200K	Georgia Armenia (8D)	175K-200K
European Charm (15D)	425K-450K	355K-380K	Scandinavia Midnight Sun(9D)	375K-400K	295K-420K	310K-335K	245K-270K	150K-175K	Best of Georgia (8D)	150K-175K
Multi-Country Europe (17-27D)	450K-695K	370K-615K	Scandinavia Iceland	155K-275K	100K-125K	Greece Athens Santorini Mykonos (7D)	250K-275K	100K-125K	Baltic Estonia Latvia Lithuania (8D)	250K-275K
Amsterdam Brussels/Swiss Paris(7/10D)	225K-345K	155K-275K	Midnight Sun (14D)	625K-650K	545K-570K	Greece Athens Santorini Rhodes	310K-335K	180K-205K	Baltic Europe + Scandinavia(15D)	500K-525K
England Scotland /Ireland (10/15D)	315K-440K	245K-370K	Scandinavia Northern Lights (9D)	400K-425K	305K-330K	Greece Athens Santorini Rhodes Mykonos (10D)	325K-350K	330K-355K	Best of Georgia (8D)	150K-175K
Swiss Paris/French Riviera(8/10D)	275K-310K	210K-240K	Scandinavia Northern Lights Icebreaker Cruise (10D)	420K-445K	330K-355K	All of Greece (14D)	425K-450K	175K-200K	Baltic Berlin Warsaw Krakow (15D)	390K-415K
Swiss Paris London (11D)	375K-400K	290K-315K	Iceland Northern Lights (10D)	515K-545K	440K-465K	Egypt Greece Turkey (12D)	350K-375K	175K-200K	Balkan Romania Bulgaria	405K-430K
Swiss Paris Italy (11D)	310K-335K	230K-255K	Scandinavia Iceland	205K-265K	155K-180K	Greece Turkey (12D)	350K-375K	155K-180K	Serbia North Macedonia (15D)	405K-430K
Swiss Austria/Italy (8D/11D)	275K-310K	205K-265K	Northern Lights (14D)	520K-545K	430K-455K	Iceland (10D/15D)	225K-350K	155K-180K	Best of Morocco (8D)	225K-250K
Swiss Paris Austria (11D)	330K-340K	260K-270K	Scandinavia Iceland Northern Lights+Icebreaker Cruise (15D)	575K-600K	480K-505K	Best of Egypt (9D)	175K-200K	155K-180K	Tunisia Malta Sicily (10D)	375K-400K
Italy (10D/15D)	260K-490K	190K-420K	Russia Northern Lights (10D)	300K-325K	115K-140K	Egypt Greece Cyprus (12D)	390K-415K	295K-320K		
Switzerland (7D/10D)	275K-360K	205K-290K	Best of Russia (7D)	175K-200K		Greece Cyprus(9D)	325K-350K			
Best of Austria (8D)	275K-285K	205K-215K				Egypt Morocco (8D)	240K-265K			
Best of France (11D)	300K-310K	230K-240K				Egypt Jordan (10D)	295K-320K			
						Best of Jordan (7D)	200K-225K			

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Three of a family found dead in suspected murder-suicide pact

Financial distress could be motive behind incident: Cops

BENGALURU, DHNS

An elderly woman, her married daughter and grandson were found dead at their home in Taver-ekre, South Bengaluru, on Monday in what police suspect was a murder-suicide pact. The incident, which occurred around 9 am, was re-



Madamma (68) with her daughter Sudha (38) and grandson Mounish (14).

portedly triggered by severe financial distress, according to preliminary investigations. Sudha (38) allegedly consumed poison, along with her 14-year-old son, Mounish. Both were in pain for several minutes and later died. Seeing the boy's suffering, Sudha's mother, 68-year-old Madamma, called her elder

exact cause of death will be confirmed after the post-mortem. Police later visited the scene, conducted a spot mahazar and shifted the bodies for post-mortem. The family, originally from Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu, had moved to Bengaluru. They visited a temple in Dharmapuri on Sunday. Sudha, separated from her husband a few years ago, was living with her mother. The family had earlier run a biryani restaurant and later a condiment shop, but incurred losses in both businesses. In recent years, Madamma and Sudha worked as house-

maids and also sold milk to make ends meet. A purported death note written by Sudha named four people, including an acquaintance named Sarathi, who had allegedly borrowed lakhs of rupees from the family, but failed to repay it. Sudha had also rented a shop, but did not receive rent on time. These factors pushed the family into deep financial distress, a police officer close to the investigation said. The Sudduguntepalya police have registered a case of murder and abetment to suicide. Further investigations are underway.

BBMP dissolved, but town planning left to one officer

BENGALURU, DHNS

Although the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was dissolved in September to decentralise the city's governance, the state government is yet to fill vacant posts in the vital town planning section crucial to Bengaluru's development. The post of Additional Director, Town Planning (ADTP), is vacant in all five corporations. Most decisions are now routed through the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

From approving building plans to permitting changes in land use, the GBA's town planning wing has become more influential since the new system came into force. It now also holds authority to prepare the city's comprehensive master plan, a responsibility that previously remained with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

Following the dissolution of the BBMP, the government

What is the point of creating five corporations, if the powers are not delegated? By appointing one officer in charge of all five corporations, the approval process has become painfully slow. In simple terms, the government has created a system that depends on just one person.

- BUILDER

created posts of Additional Director and Joint Director (Town Planning) in all five corporations. While the joint director positions have been filled, the top post remains vacant. In the absence of a full-time officer, the GBA has handed additional charge of all five corporations to BN Girish, who already holds the same post at the apex body. A builder seeking approvals questioned the very purpose of decentralisation. "What is the point of cre-

MSc student dies by suicide after sexual exploitation

Police launch manhunt after accused absconds

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 22-year-old MSc student died by suicide after allegedly being cheated and exploited by a youth who gained her trust. The incident took place at Vibhuthikere village in Ramana-gara on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Varshini A, who was pursuing her MSc at a private college in Mysuru.

A senior police officer said the girl was found hanging at her home. She left behind a death note, naming Chitralinga alias Abhi, a youth from Kunigal in Tumakuru district. According to the death note, Varshini met Abhi at a marriage ceremony. He allegedly sexually exploited her and used her private photos to blackmail her. He took money and jewellery from her and forced her to undergo an abortion. Varshini's mother Geetha filed a case with the Ramana-gara rural police on Monday, and a case of abetment has been registered. Abhi has been absconding since the incident came to light.

Woman's gang-rape complaint against cab driver under scanner

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Kerala woman's complaint accusing a cab driver and his friend of gang-rape in Bengaluru has come under scrutiny after Banasawadi police reportedly found contradictions in her statements during the investigation. The woman initially filed the complaint at the Madiwala police station, following which a Zero FIR was registered and transferred to the Banasawadi police. According to a senior police officer, the incident was reported on December 2. Police detained the suspect, cab driver Suresh, for questioning. He told investigators that he and the complainant had known each other for some time and had developed a friendship after she first booked his cab. He further claimed that their physical relationship was consensual and produced WhatsApp chat exchanges to support his version. Upon re-examining the woman's statement, the police said they found inconsistencies. A preliminary inquiry revealed that the woman, a student at a private college, and Suresh are both from Kerala and had recently attended a party together, during which the woman sustained a minor neck injury. Misled her boyfriend Police now suspect that the woman may have fabricated the gang-rape allegation to hide her relationship with Suresh from her boyfriend and to explain the injury. Believing her account, the boyfriend accompanied her to the police station to file the complaint. Despite the conflicting statements, police have registered a case of rape and are verifying whether the driver's friend was present during the alleged incident. Further investigation is underway, officials said.

Mother, 4-year-old die in geyser leak

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 26-year-old woman and her four-year-old daughter died after inhaling toxic fumes from a suspected geyser leak at their house in Panchasheel Nagar, near Govindarajanagar in southwestern Bengaluru, on Monday. Chandini had taken the child, Yavi, for a bath around noon when both reportedly fell unconscious due to fumes emanating from the bathroom geyser. Her husband Kiran, a carpenter, was at work at the time. Their other daughter, Jahnavi, was at school. Kiran came home and took his wife and child to Victoria Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead. Police are verifying if carbon monoxide leakage from the geyser caused the death.

Showroom owner booked for sexual harassment, withholding salary

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman employed as a salesperson at an automobile showroom has filed a police complaint accusing the owner of sexually harassing and abusing her, and withholding her salary. According to the FIR registered at the Girinagar police station, the 34-year-old complainant said she joined the automobile showroom as a salesperson on October 6 with a promised monthly salary of Rs 15,000. She alleged that the owner did not pay her wages for nearly 20 days, despite multiple reminders after completing a month. The woman stated that whenever she asked about her salary, the accused allegedly used sexually coloured remarks, obscene language, and verbally harassed her. She told the police he repeatedly made vulgar comments, causing her emotional distress. On November 18, around 10.30 am, she visited the office seeking her pending salary. She alleged that the owner again abused her in sexually explicit terms and insulted her in front of others. Later that day, he transferred Rs 10,000 to her phone, but failed to clear the remaining amount. The complainant said the harassment continued even after she warned she would approach the police. She accused the owner of intentionally withholding her salary and subjecting her to repeated humiliation. Girinagar police registered a case against the accused under sections related to sexual harassment and verbal abuse. A notice has been issued to the accused. Police said action will be taken once enough evidence is gathered, and the accused's identity will be revealed.

PV Quiz Championship: Bengaluru zonal round on Dec 15

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru zonal round of the Prajavani Quiz Championship will be held on December 15. Any number of teams can participate from one school, but there must be at least two members in a team. Entry is free for all. Spot registrations begin at 9 am. For more information, call 7338018541 between noon and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

Please contact for subscription/ service queries (late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)

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GOVT. TOOL ROOM & TRAINING CENTRE

Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560010. Ph: 080-23152118/119, 23384303, Fax: 080-23301683, Website: https://gttc.karnataka.gov.in

Ref: GTTC/BANG/ADMN/INSURANCE/2025-26 Date: 08.12.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE

e-Tender are being called for providing Group Medical Insurance to employees of GTTC centers. Schedule of requirements is being uploaded with tender Ref: GTTC/BANG/ADMN/INSURANCE/2025-26 Interested insurance companies owned by Government of India may visit the following website and download the documents from e-procurement website: <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority

Mysore Sales International Limited

BEVERAGES DIVISION

MSIL House, # 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052. Phone : 080-22264021-25

No.: MSIL/BD/002/2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short-Term Tender is invited from eligible agencies/ service providers for providing Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) services of the End-to-End software for MSIL, Beverages Division. Last Date & time for submission of e-Tender: 29.12.2025 up to 3.00 p.m. For more details visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Director (Marketing)

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No. Ex.O/E/O/Tender-eproc-12/2025-26 Date: 05.12.2025

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement portal)

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad is inviting tender for Supply of Laptops (IND No. 0160) through e-procurement portal. The eligible registered authorized suppliers are requested to visit the website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and download the documents for participation in the tender. Last date & time for receipt of Tender: 29.12.2025 (Monday) at 4.00 PM. Other Schedule of Events can be availed in the e-Portal. For more details please contact 0836-2214291 during office hours. Tenderers need to register with e-procurement portal of Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore. For details of registration please contact Phone No: 080-46010000. Bidders are requested to get updated with the corrigendum/addendum (if any) issued online at the following link in the entire tender process. <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Estate Officer, UAS, Dharwad.

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

Office of The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority, NR Square, Annex Building - 3, Bengaluru-560002.

No.DCF/PR. 397/2025-26 Date :08.12.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Deputy General Manager (Maintenance), Aerospace Composites Division, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of trees standing at the premises of the New Facility Aerospace Composite Division, HAL, Bengaluru, for Construction of Proposed Vehicle Parking. The details are given below:

Name of the project	Construction of proposed Vehicle Parking			
Name of the Agency	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Aerospace Composites Division			
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are coming within the Project for Construction of proposed Vehicle Parking at the premises of the New Facility Aerospace Composite Division, HAL, Bengaluru			
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS Coordinates	Boundary	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Location
	1	12°57' 52"	77°41' 26"	The trees are standing at the premises of the New Facility Aerospace Composite Division, HAL, Bengaluru
	2	12°57' 52"	77°41' 24"	
	3	12°57' 49"	77°41' 24"	
	4	12°57' 49"	77°41' 26"	
Enumeration of trees Total no. of trees standing in the project area	155 Nos (Annexure-1)	Description of trees, species, location, area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all. (www.bbmp.gov.in)		
Mode of communication of comments (Public can send their comments either by E-mail/Post/Hand)	Address: a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R Square, Bangalore- 560 002. E-mail id: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com b. The Dy. General Manager, ACD, HAL, E-mail id: gm.lohith@hal-india.co.in# # A copy of the comments communicated directly to Dy GM, ACD, HAL should also be marked to the Tree-Officer/DCF, GBA			
Deadline for filing objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this Notification in Newspaper * Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project			

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA, Bengaluru

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	(South East)-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 19,82,651/- ₹ 49,570/-	23.12.2025 upto 5:00 pm	24.12.2025 after 5:30 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 21,02,379/- ₹ 50,000/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 40,07,028/- ₹ 80,150/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 39,68,772/- ₹ 79,380/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 45,96,390/- ₹ 91,930/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 38,26,401/- ₹ 76,530/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 21,08,788/- ₹ 50,000/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 45,85,841/- ₹ 91,720/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3080/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 36,16,295/- ₹ 72,330/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East)-1

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

10	South-2	BWSSB/EES2/TO/PB/1772/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025	₹ 67,52,658/- ₹ 1,35,100/-	18.12.2025 upto 4:00 pm	19.12.2025 after 4:30 pm
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Sd/- Executive Engineer (South)-2

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

11	WWM-P C Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-P-CV/PB/1313/2025-26 Dated: 08.12.2025	₹ 33,55,879/- ₹ 67,177.58	17.12.2025 upto 4:00 pm	18.12.2025 after 4:30 pm
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Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-P) C Valley

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPRC/PM/IA/4293/2025-26

Police foil MES' attempt to hold maha melava

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) could not hold its 'maha melava' (convention) opposing the winter session of the legislature at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha as announced by the pro-Maharashtra outfit as the city police did not give them permission.

Leaders and activists, in small numbers, who made attempts to gain entry to the vaccine depot ground at Tilakwadi, the venue of the meeting, were arrested on the Congress Road on Monday.

The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti has organised the event to oppose the session being held in Belagavi, and demanded that Marathi-speaking areas of the state be merged with Maharashtra.

Govt not ready to use liquor sales revenue for liver disease treatment

BJP blames high sales target for increased consumption

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The government on Monday declined to cede to the Opposition BJP's demand to set aside 20% of its revenue from liquor sales to help treatment of liver cirrhosis and jaundice caused by liquor consumption, saying all have to work together to bring reforms in society, to reduce alcohol consumption.

Leader of the House in Council and Minister N S Bos-

eraju told the Council that the government was not encouraging alcohol consumption. Instead, it had increased prices, along with having temperance board and creating awareness about the dangers of alcohol consumption.

Estimation of liquor sale was made with an intention to check illegal sales, he said.

"There should be reforms in society. On humanitarian grounds, help is extended for treatment under CM's relief

fund. Treatments are available under PM Jana Arogya Yojana, National Health Mission, superspecialty hospitals and other health facilities. Health and excise departments do their work separately, they get shares for budgetary programmes using total revenue collected," the minister said.

Raising the issue, Opposition Chief Whip N Ravikumar said the number of people affected by liver cirrhosis and jaundice was increasing due to increased liquor consumption because of higher sales target set by the government, also resulting in illegal liquor sale.

The government should reserve 20% of revenue from liquor sales to help treat these diseases on humanitarian grounds, he demanded.

"Poor people suffer from liver diseases for which treatment is expensive, but the government has increased the liquor sales target for 2025-26 to Rs 43,000 crore. Liquor consumers' lifespan has come down and crimes also increase due to liquor consumption, while 2.2% deaths are due to liver diseases," he said.

"If government helps such people to get cured, they may bring a little more revenue to the government," Ravikumar said in a lighter vein.

Noting that 6.88 crore cases of liquor were sold in Karnataka though the population here is at ninth position in the country, K S Naveen (BJP) lamented that the state had only one government institute to treat liver cirrhosis and had only 30

gastroenterologists.

He demanded appointment of a gastroenterologist for each district and strict implementation of excise rules to check illegal liquor sales.

B K Hariprasad of Congress said liquor consumption had become a culture, alcohol consumption was not the only cause for liver problem and it was not right to blame Karnataka for this.

Congress' Ramesh Babu said the Centre should take steps to check tobacco sales which causes cancer, a more dangerous disease.

While Shivakumar was against increasing the sales of liquor, BJP's C T Ravi, Bharati Shetty and Hemalata Naik stressed the need to save youth from alcohol addiction



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaks in the Legislative Assembly on the inaugural day of the winter session at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Monday.

Museum in memory of Saalummarada Thimmakka: CM

BELAGAVI, DHNS: CM Siddaramaiah said on Monday that his government "will consider" setting up a museum in memory of environmentalist, late Saalummarada Thimmakka.

He told the Assembly, "When I went to meet her in her final days, Thimmakka

gave me a letter. It was on starting a museum in Belur in her name. Our government will consider it".

He also paid homage to deceased Bagalkot MLA H Y Meti, four-time lawmaker R V Devaraj (both Congress), novelist S L Bharyappa and actor MS Umesh.

KEA not receiving any grants from govt, Sudhakar tells Council

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is being run with zero grants from the state government, Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar informed the Legislative Council on Monday.

The minister's statements were issued in response to objections raised by BJP MLC Hanumanth Nirani to the fees charged by the KEA for departmental recruitment examinations. "KEA charges Rs 750 per application, which is rather high, given that the fee is Rs 1,000 for the UPSC application, and only Rs 300 for the KPSC examination. So, KEA must reduce its fee bearing in mind the interests of poor but meritorious candidates," said Nirani, who added that KEA had made Rs 40 crore from application fees collected from aspirants who applied for the posts of 1,000 Village Admin-

istrative Officers.

KEA is receiving no grants from the government, Sudhakar told Nirani. "In fact, KEA is not relying on the government even to pay salaries to its personnel. Application fees for government departmental exams in other states is higher, around Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500. Compared to that, what the KEA is charging is less," said Sudhakar.

He also relayed to the Council the various measures taken by the KEA to ensure examinations are conducted smoothly, and transparently. "KEA installs closed-circuit television cameras to webcast the exams to curb malpractices. Nearly 90% of the money collected from application fees is used up for conducting that specific examination. For instance, of the Rs 1.8 crore that KEA collected for the exams it conducted for BMTC, expenditure from holding the exam accounted for Rs 1.71 crore," Sudhakar added.

Financially self-sufficient		
Post	Applications Received	Fees Collected by KEA
Village Administrative Officers	6,33,917	Rs 40.08 cr
Assistant engineers & FDA	27,304	Rs 1.74 cr
Miscellaneous posts at the Council	4,904	Rs 29.87 lakh
BMTC exams	28,508	Rs 1.83 cr
Assistant Professors for Raichur University	1,980	Rs 28.84 lakh

Anna Bhagya rice being stolen, illegally exported: C T Ravi

Minister Muniyappa rules out SIT probe

BELAGAVI, DHNS



BJP member C T Ravi speaks in the Legislative Council at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Monday.

Rice distributed to beneficiaries of Anna Bhagya scheme was being illegally exported to countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Singapore at inflated prices, alleged BJP members in the Legislative Council at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Monday.

Senior BJP leader and former minister C T Ravi alleged that rice pilfered from the Anna Bhagya was being sold to the UAE at the price of Rs 8,000 for 10kg, while the same quantity was fetching miscreants Rs 1,500 in Singapore.

"Miscreants are stealing rice before it reaches the godowns. The rice is subsequently being polished and exported. Rice that must rightfully be reaching BPL families of Karnataka is now finding its way to the black markets of other states," rued Ravi.

Although Ravi and his party colleagues sought the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe these allegations, Food and Civil Sup-

plies Minister K H Muniyappa dismissed the need for such a probe.

"Since rice is not used as extensively in North Karnataka as it is in other parts of the state, miscreants are trying to steal the excess rice. But the government is taking stringent action against those stealing rice allotted for the Anna Bhagya scheme," he said.

Muniyappa further added that Indira Kits comprising dal, pulses, oil, sugar and salt, would be distributed in North Karnataka starting from January 2026.

Muniyappa informed the Council that the state government had seized 29,603 quintals of rice stolen from the stock allotted for Anna Bhagya from miscreants between

April and November. As many as 488 cases have been registered in connection with these thefts, and 314 vehicles seized across the state, he added.

The debate took a nasty turn when IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge alleged the involvement of BJP members in a recent incident wherein Anna Bhagya rice was reported stolen in Yadgir district. Incensed at the suggestion, the BJP members asked the Chairman of the Council to expunge the word 'BJP' from Priyank's remarks. The Chairman asked the saffron party members to submit a formal request to that effect.

A heated debate ensued between the members of the Congress and BJP following Priyank's remarks before calm was restored in the House.

SC notice to Siddaramaiah on plea challenging 2023 election from Varuna constituency

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on a plea by a voter challenging his election from the Varuna constituency in the 2023 Legislative Assembly election.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta sought a reply from Siddaramaiah after hearing advocate Vishwadiya Sharma on behalf of K Shankara, who challenged the Karnataka High Court's April 22, 2025, order

rejecting his plea.

The petitioner filed an election petition against the chief minister, alleging that the five guarantees made during the 2023 election amounted to bribery and a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act.

He contended that Siddaramaiah leader and his agents personally distributed the pamphlet, actively relied on its promises during canvassing, and, thus directly engaged in corrupt practices.

These allegations would require a full evidentiary trial,

but the High Court wrongly short-circuited the process by rejecting the petition at the threshold, the petitioner claimed.

He also contended that the High Court's election tribunal based its decision primarily on the Supreme Court's judgment in Subramaniam Balaji Vs State of Tamil Nadu, (2013), which held that Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 does not apply to political parties, and that promises contained in a party manifesto cannot, by themselves, constitute a cor-

rupt practice.

"This conclusion, however, is misconceived and inapplicable to the present case, as the pamphlet was not a lawful manifesto but an illegal campaign document," he claimed.

The pamphlet contained direct promises of cash benefits, amounting to blatant vote buying and falling squarely within Section 123(1) RPA, the petitioner alleged.

"If allowed to stand, the High Court's order would create a dangerous precedent enabling political parties to circumvent election laws by

outsourcing corrupt practices to party machinery, while candidates escape liability. Given the systemic implications for electoral integrity and constitutional governance, this court's intervention is necessary to restore the election petition for trial and reaffirm that money power and vote buying have no place in a democratic polity," he stated in the plea.

The High Court had rejected Shankara's plea after noting that the election guarantees cannot constitute a corrupt practice.

SC orders notice to Priyank Kharge on plea challenging his election

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice to Karnataka IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge on a plea challenging his election from Chittapur (SC) constituency in the 2023 Legislative Assembly Election.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma sought a response from the Congress leader on a petition filed by Ashwathram, a registered elector from Chittapur, challenging the Karnataka High Court's order of June 25, 2025.

The appellant, led by advocate Vishwadiya Sharma, specifically alleged that Kharge and his agents circulated pamphlets styled as "Congress Guarantees," purporting to set out promises of direct mone-

etary transfers and other targeted benefits to voters during the election campaign.

The plea contended these pamphlets were not the official manifesto of the Indian National Congress, a registered political party under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), but documents issued in the name of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

"The pamphlets bore none of the statutory disclosures of printer and publisher as required under Section 127A of the RPA and were never filed with the Election Commission. They were distributed door-to-door and at public meetings with the active participation and consent of the respondent. The promises contained in these pamphlets constituted inducements, like



bribery, within the meaning of Section 123(1) RPA and materially affected the result of the election," it claimed.

Senior advocate Anand Sanjay M Nuli appeared on behalf of Kharge. He accepted the notice and agreed to file a written response.

The petitioner also alleged improper acceptance of Kharge's nomination based on a caste certificate not issued in the prescribed format, and misrepresenta-

tion of his educational qualifications.

"These acts and defects cumulatively vitiated the election and rendered the respondent's return liable to be declared void under Sections 100(1)(b) and 100(1)(d) of the RPA," he contended.

He said the High Court summarily rejected his petition at the threshold, holding, promises in the pamphlets cannot constitute corrupt practices in view of the Supreme Court judgment in S Subramaniam Balaji Vs State of Tamil Nadu, acceptance of a defective caste certificate was immaterial to nomination, and allegations relating to the filing of criminal cases and education were inconsequential.

The plea, however, contended the High Court's order suffered from manifest errors,

including that Balaji's case was factually distinguishable, as that judgment dealt with welfare schemes post-election, and in any event, its correctness stood referred to a larger bench in the Ashwini Upadhyay Vs Union of India case.

"The High Court failed to appreciate that Section 123 RPA expressly extends bribery to acts of "any other person" and that a political party, being an association of persons, cannot be insulated from scrutiny when its material is used in the candidate's campaign. Finally, grave constitutional implications arise, insulating candidates from accountability for direct inducements undermines the guarantee of free and fair elections, a basic feature of the Constitution," the plea said.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN No. U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement) /EE/AEE/25-26/65804-09

Date: 06-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP Portal mode only)

PC 1477: Establishment of transformer repair center at Basavakalyan. Tender Amount **Rs. 114.95 Lakhs**, Detes : Bid documents available at KPP Portal : On or after **09.12.2025**. Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of Price Bid: As per KPP Portal.

Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102, Mobile: 94484 99997, Web site Address : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at **+91 - 8046010000/8068948777/9240214000/ 9240214001** or e-mail address: **support@eprocchelpdesk.com**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (procurement) GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/830/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26/

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,

ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಸನೀಅಅವಿಎ/ಯೋತಾ-1/ಏನೀಯೋ/ಕೊಟೇಶನ್ /2025-26/3284

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.12.2025

ಕೊಟೇಶನ್ ಅಭಿಸೂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಿಂದ ವಿಜಯಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ 4702 ಏಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮುಗಲೋಳ್ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಮುಗಲೋಳ್ ಸ್ಕೆಚ್-2 ಏಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಸಬ್ ಸ್ಟೇಶನ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಮೀಷನಿಂಗ್ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ 17 ಐಟಂಗಳ ದರಗಳ ಆಹ್ವಾನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸೀಲ್ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊಟೇಶನ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾಯಕಟ್ಟೆಯ 17 ಐಟಂಗಳ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಳವಡಿಸಿ ಅಂದಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಮಾತ್ರ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ / ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.12.2025 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5-30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಐಟಂಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕರೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸೆ/ಒ- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,

ಸ.ನೀ. ಮತ್ತು ಅಂ.ಇ.ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/521/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

HOSAPETE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
I.S.R ROAD, CHITTAWADGI POLICE STATION BEHIND, HOSAPETE-583201,
VIJAYANAGARA Dist. e-mail : hospethuda@gmail.com, Ph No. 08394-227749

No:HUDA/Planning/work/03/2025-26

Date:05.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION(Through e-Procurement)

The budget of Hospet Urban Development Authority for the year 2025-26 has been approved by the government. As per the government's directions, an action plan has been prepared and administrative approval has been obtained and the following tender works have been invited under the authority's funds through the KPPP portal under 2 cover system.

1.HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT20/CALL2(Reserved for CAT-II)
2.HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT21/CALL2(Reserved for CAT-II)
3.HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT22/CALL2((Others)
4.HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT23/CALL2(Reserved for SC)
5.HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT24/CALL2(Others)
6.HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT25/CALL2(Reserved for SC)
7.HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT26/CALL2(Others)
8.HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT27/CALL2(Reserved for ST)

Last date & time for tender Submission: **22.12.2025 at 10:30am**,
Technical Bid Opening date and time for receipt of tenders: **23.12.2025 at 11.00 am**,
Financial Bid Opening date and time for receipt of tenders : **25.12.2025 at 10:30am**,
Tender Opening Place.: **Hospet Urban Development Authority Office, ISR Road, Hosapete**
HUDA-2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT28.

Last date & time for tender Submission: **17.12.2025 at 10.30am**,
Pre Bid Meeting Date: **12.12.2025 at 11:00 am**,
Technical Bid Opening date and time for receipt of tenders: **18.12.2025 at 11.30am**,
Financial Bid Opening date and time for receipt of tenders: **21.12.2025 at 11.30 am**,
Tender Opening Place.: **Hospet Urban Development Authority Office, ISR Road, Hosapete**

Interested Contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Any Quarry Contact Office Telephone No:08394-227749.

Sd/- Commissioner
Hosapete Urban Development Authority
Hosapete, Vijayanagara District

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/385

BJP plans to lay siege to Suvarna Soudha today

BELAGAVI, DHNS: BJP state president B Y Vijayendra said on Monday that over 20,000 farmers will stage a protest before laying siege to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha here on Tuesday, condemning the anti-farmer policies of the state government.

Vijayendra, along with Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, party MLA Abhay Patil and MLC C T Ravi, inspected the protest venue at Malini City.

Speaking to reporters, Vijayendra said, “Our protest is

against the Congress government in the state for neglecting the farmers. Injustice is being meted out to sugarcane, maize, paddy, tur growers and other farmers. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah conducted an aerial survey in the affected areas, but did nothing to alleviate farmers’ problems. The Congress government has made it a habit to blame the Centre for all woes. Farmers have not been compensated by the state. More than 20,000 farmers will take part in the protest on Tuesday.”

With Centre tightening state’s belt, govt scrambles for fiscal relief

Proposal to monetise urban land assets under consideration

BHARATH JOSHI
BELAGAVI, DHNS

With Karnataka anticipating a loss of Rs 18,500 crore in the current fiscal due to GST revisions and the Centre’s refusal to share cess, the Siddaramaiah administration is scrambling to plug the shortfall, which may drive up borrowings.

Besides borrowing more, the government is planning resource mobilisation measures like auctioning liquor licences and monetising public lands. However, both ideas have met with resistance internally.

In his letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed fears about “more difficult months ahead”.

Siddaramaiah told Modi that Karnataka may face a shortfall of Rs 9,000 crore,

attributing this to “severe reduction” in GST collections. “This excludes the additional loss of approximately Rs 9,500 crore due to the non-merger of compensation cess,” the CM stated.

Also, the state has seen a 26% drop in grants-in-aid received by the Centre between April and October (Rs 6,306.36 crore) compared with the corresponding period last year (Rs 8,623.51 crore).

“There will be more tightening of the belt if the same situation continues,” a senior minister aware of the financial situation told *DH*.

The government is examining a proposal to monetise urban land assets as recommended by a committee headed by retired IAS officer K P Krishnan.

“This isn’t a new idea. Land-related resource mobilisation measures were first tried when H D Kumaraswamy was the CM in 2006,” the minister quoted earlier said. This minister is likely to flag the proposal. “Monetisation of land is nothing but giving off assets at throwaway rates. I am skeptical.”

The government wants to auction defunct CL-2 (retail liquor shop) and CL-9 (bar & restaurant) licences. Author-

There are indications that the government may resort to more borrowing.

ities are also planning to auction unused CL-II(C) licences, which are given to retail outlets run by the Mysore Sales International Ltd (MSIL).

The auction may fetch the government up to Rs 1,000 crore. Once the newly licensed liquor shops are operationalised, the government will earn more from excise revenue. In the current fiscal, the excise revenue target is Rs 40,000 crore.

However, senior Congress lawmaker B R Patil has shot off a letter to Siddaramaiah arguing that new liquor shops should not be allowed during the ongoing ‘Gandhi Bharata’ campaign to mark 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi presiding over the Congress’ session at Belagavi.

There are indications that the government may resort to more borrowing.

The government has estimated that it will borrow Rs 1.16 lakh crore this year. This is dangerously close to breaching legal limits. Last year, the government borrowed a whopping Rs one lakh crore.

Smart India Hackathon finale on at RUAS



Prof Kalyan B Sinha (seated) felicitated by (left to right) Prof R V Ranganath, Dr Piyush Kumar Soni, Dr Kuldeep Kumar Raina, Prof Deepak Kumar Saini, S Ashok Rao and Dr Sarat Kumar Maharana.

The finale of the Smart India Hackathon 2025 – Software Edition, regarded as India’s largest innovation festival, commenced yesterday at Dwarka Auditorium, Gnanagangotri Campus, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS). It is being conducted by the Ministry of Education’s Innovation Cell (MIC) in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). RUAS is hosting the finale.

The Hackathon will run for 36 hours, featuring team interactions, mentoring sessions and solution development activities. This national-level competition aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among students by encouraging them to identify and solve pressing societal challenges, transforming their ideas into implementable solutions.

Students from Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana and Haryana are participating in this event. The problem statements for the finale have

been provided by Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and MathWorks India Pvt Ltd. In this edition of the hackathon, 72,165 ideas were submitted, 68,766 student teams participated and 8,26,635 students took part in internal hackathons. For the finale, 1,360 teams comprising 8,160 students were selected. Five teams consisting of six students each will work on four problem statements, developing innovative solutions. One winning team will be selected per problem statement, and each will receive a cash prize of Rs 1.50 lakhs sponsored by the Government of India.

The event was inaugurated with a brief introduction to the hackathon’s objectives. S Ashok Rao, Registrar, RUAS, welcomed the gathering. Prof R V Ranganath, Provost (Engineering and Allied Sciences), delivered the opening remarks. Chief guest Prof Deepak Kumar Saini, Developmental Biology and Genetics Department, IISc, addressed the gathering and explained how hackathons emerged and why they are

crucial for producing exceptional outcomes within limited timeframes.

Guest of honour Prof Kalyan B Sinha, former Director, Indian Statistical Institute, elaborated on how quickly the brain begins to respond and linked this to machine learning concepts. Every decision comes with a price, and determining which choice carries the least cost defines decision-making.

In his presidential address, Vice Chancellor Prof Kuldeep Kumar Raina, speaking on behalf of Chancellor Dr M R Yaram, extended a warm welcome to students from across the country. He said the uniqueness of this competition lies in its diversity, bringing together students from varied disciplines.

RUAS’ Dr Piyush Kumar Soni, Dean - Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship and Dr Sarat Kumar Maharana, Professor & Dean (Faculty of Engineering & Technology) attended the event. Dr Nayana N Patil, Associate Dean for Student Wellness, proposed the vote of thanks.

Curated by **DH Brandspot**

CM urged to decide on trifurcation of Belagavi

BELAGAVI, DHNS: A delegation led by Arabhavi BJP MLA Balachandra Jarkiholi met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here and demanded the division of the Belagavi district.

The demand is to create two new districts - Chikkodi and Gokak - while retaining Belagavi as a smaller district. With 18 Assembly segments, Belagavi is the larg-

est political district outside Bengaluru. Reacting to this, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who is Balachandra’s brother, said: “All of us have been exerting pressure ever since our (Congress) government came to power. Lawmakers are in favour of it. Perhaps, the CM will discuss with us during the ongoing legislature session.”

31 blackbucks died due to bacterial infection at Belagavi zoo, says Khandre

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre said the death of 31 blackbucks at the Rani Channamma Mini Zoo in Belagavi was due to Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS), a bacterial disease.

Responding to a question in this regard during the winter session of assembly in Belagavi on Monday, Khandre said the disease is common among herbivores and can spread through water, food, and air. The disease can worsen and result in death within 6 to 24 hours of infection, making it difficult to detect and treat the disease.

The minister ruled out negligence on the part of zoo authority for the death of 31 blackbucks between November 13 and 17. Seven blackbucks have survived the infection after the intervention of experts.



Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre visits the Rani Channamma Mini Zoo in Belagavi to take stock of the situation.

The state has a total of 322 captive blackbucks in its nine zoos, and measures were taken to prevent the spread of disease among them. While most animals in zoos are vaccinated, it is challenging to vaccinate blackbucks due to their high sensitivity. “Capturing and vaccinating blackbucks can lead to capture myopathy, a condition that can cause heart

failure. The animals are also prone to stress and fear, which can be triggered by the presence of predators like leopards, tigers, or even dogs, leading to death,” he said.

Khandre said the mortality rate in Karnataka’s zoos has shown a declining trend over the years. According to the data, the mortality rate was 6.2% in 2021-22, which de-

ESHWAR B KHANDRE
Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister

The animals are also prone to stress and fear, which can be triggered by the presence of predators like leopards, tigers, or even dogs, leading to death.

creased to 4.5% in 2022-23. The rate was 4.76% in 2023-24, 3.25% in 2024-25, and 2.42% in 2025-26.

Following the deaths of 31 blackbucks at the Rani Channamma Mini Zoo, the Karnataka Zoo Authority has instructed all executive directors of zoos under its jurisdiction to take precautionary and safety measures to prevent further deaths.

The minister urged the opposition not to politicise tragic deaths of blackbucks, which were beyond the control of officials.

No history of no-trust motion against chairman for lack of majority: Horatti

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said there is no precedent of moving a no-confidence motion against the chairman in the history of the Council over lack of majority, except once against D H Shankaramurthy for other reasons.

He was responding to the speculation about a no-confidence motion being moved against him.

Horatti said, “I have worked impartially. If a no-confidence motion has to be moved, that is left to the House. I have to obey the decision taken by the House.”

Refuting the allegation of irregularities in direct recruitment of staff to the Council, he said that he would not occupy the chair even for a minute if misappropriation of even just one rupee was proved.

“The recruitment for 30 posts was conducted through Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) based on the examination and merit list. A committee also verified it,” he said. “Due respect was given to Minister Laxmi Hebalkar during the Laxmi Hebalkar-C T Ravi tussle in the Council. Though the House was adjourned, the matter was referred to the ethics

committee,” he said in reply to allegations by Congress MLC M Nagaraju, challenging him to give proof in support of his charges.

Horatti felt that making first-time MLC M Nagaraju the chief of the privileges committee was a mistake.

“The MLC was not sent for training in Delhi at the government’s expense, as he had gone earlier. That may be the reason for him to level allegations. For the first time in the history of the Council, action was initiated against three staff members for their mistakes, and therefore, allegations against me are coming,” he said, adding that most of the members are satisfied with his “unbiased functioning style”.

He said that the entire day of the Council, after Question Hour, would be reserved for discussion on North Karnataka issues on Dec 10 and 17 (Wednesdays).

He said the discussion on an issue related to the region would be allowed under an appropriate rule or a calling attention motion every day. Proceedings would not be adjourned till the agenda ends, he noted. According to sources, Horatti left for Bengaluru on Monday.

DH report on C-section deliveries finds mention in House

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Senior JD(S) member Govindaraju mentioned a *DH* report while raising the issue of rise in C-Section deliveries in the state, in the Council.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao admitted that C-section deliveries had increased because of various reasons, including fear among would-be mothers.

“Following the rise in C-section deliveries, we are doing the audit. There are various reasons for people opting for C-Section deliveries, which include fear and pain,” he informed the House.

Percentage of C-Sections		
Year	Govt	Pvt
2020-21	69%	31%
2021-22	66%	34%
2022-23	65%	35%
2023-24	64%	36%
2024-25	62%	38%
2025 (up to Aug)	62%	38%

Rao said there were doctors at primary health centres who have not performed a single delivery in the last year and a half. “Considering it seriously, we will be shifting such doctors to taluk hospitals,” Rao said.

Congress MLC apologises to Chair

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Senior Congress MLC M Nagaraju apologised to Council chairperson Basavaraj Horatti on Monday.

When the Question Hour was dragging on, Horatti proposed to cut it down after 75 minutes. While most members agreed, the MLC raised his voice at the chair, saying members had the right to discuss even for two hours. This

triggered Opposition members and Yadav was forced to apologise after senior Congress MLC B K Hariprasad intervened and convinced his colleague to apologise, sensing the seriousness of the situation. From Tuesday, Horatti announced that Question Hour would be fixed for 75 minutes and if there was anything else, members could submit written requests.

DH

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With ref. to the public notice released in dated 9th September 2025 please note we are continuing our business in the same address **M/s. ORIX** leasing and financial services India limited, # 1, Bandappa Colony, New Byappanahalli Extn, Opposite Montfort College, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore – 560038 until further notice.

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Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT
I ELVIN GABRIEL MADTHA, residing at # 307, 11th Main, BSK 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560050, state that my name as mentioned in my aadhar card is **ELVIN GABRIEL MADTHA** but my name in Reliance Industries share certificates is mentioned as **ELWIN MADTHA**. I state that, my name **ELVIN GABRIEL MADTHA & ELWIN MADTHA** are one and the same and belongs to me only. vide affidavit 06-12-2025 before notary K.P. Sumangala, Bengaluru

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Peetala Yashoda Nandu, residing at Vainiki Kalyanmandapam Back Side, Indiranma Colony, Settur Road, Kalyandurg, Anantapuramu, Andhra Pradesh -515761, have changed my name to **PEETLA YASHODA NANDU** vide affidavit dated 23.10.2025 before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAGHUNADANA UMESHA SHENOY KATAPADIKAR, residing at No.17-008, B Block, Silver Oak Gardens, 1st Main, Kuvempu Nagar, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my name to **K RAGHUNANDAN SHENOY** (Katapadi Raghunandan Sheno) vide affidavit 16.10.2025 before notary Ambreshappa, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **K RAGHUNANDAN SHENOY** only.

I, SHIVA KUMAR. A., Employed at Air Force Station Jalahalli Bengaluru-15 have changed my name as **SHIVAKUMARA. A.** vide affidavit dated 6/12/2025 before **Notary V.Nagarajan** Bengaluru

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, Nazia Sultana and Naziya Sultana residing at No. 263, 5th Cross, Gangondanahalli, Lawryerpalya, Bengaluru South, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-560039, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **NAZIA SULTANA** vide affidavit dated 08.12.2025 before notary G Dayananda, Reg No. 12395, Bengaluru.

I, GEETHA SHIVKUMAR, residing at Old No. 499/D, New No.45, 1st D Cross, Mathikere Extension, Bengaluru 560054, have changed my name to **GEETHA SHIVKUMAR** vide affidavit dated 06/12/2025, sworn before B.R Shashikala, Notary, Bangalore.

I, MALINI JAIN N.D W/o Vijay S.P, aged 47, residing at No. 316, Sai Kalyan Apartment, 1st Main Road, Coffee Board Layout, Hebbal, Kempapura, Bangalore 560024 have changed my name to **MALINI VIJAY PAPPANAVAR** vide Affidavit dated 05.12.25 before Notary Vijayalakshmi K.

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House panel to simplify school recognition process

MLCs cutting across party lines point out inconveniences

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The government on Monday decided to form a House panel to simplify the process for the recognition and renewal of the recognition of private aided and unaided schools, also assuring the Legislative Council that no inconvenience would be created for schools till a decision is taken.

The MLCs, cutting across party lines, explained the inconveniences faced in getting recognition and renewal of recognition, especially in getting certificates regarding the safety of buildings and land ownership.

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa told the Council that a House committee would be formed during the ongoing session to look into the matter, and it would be ensured that schools do not face any problem till a decision is taken.

"The number criteria to be fulfilled for recognition or renewal has been reduced from 62 to 48, and efforts are being made to make the system online. We have to be careful



School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa makes a statement in Legislative Council on Monday.

about children's safety, while other departments are also involved in this matter. We will not tolerate corruption by the officials," he said, in reply to the allegation by the MLC.

Puttanna of the Congress charged that students are also in trouble due to the complicated process of getting the recognition of their school renewed as per the 2018 Rules, as they have to appear as external students for examinations in case of no recognition for their

No govt or Kannada medium school will be shut: Madhu

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa assured the Legislative Council on Monday that no government school, including the Kannada medium ones, will be closed under any circumstances.

He was replying to a question by senior members Umashree and Chidananda Gowda who expressed concerns over the reports of closure of government schools for the proposed Karnataka Public Schools (KPS), the minister said. "Kannada is in our blood and no schools will be closed. We will provide all facilities, including mid-day meal, even if only one child is enrolled in the government school."

The minister, however, expressed unhappiness over the confusion created by social media platforms

and said, "I have never said we are closing down schools. Social media is spoiling society by spreading false information. I would like to assure the House that the government would not close a single school, instead we are ready to open, if we have a single child to get enrolled. What is the problem when we even provide transportation for children to commute to KPS? Why can't our children study at the same campus from LKG to PUC?"

Madhu even brought it to the notice of the House that a few members of the Legislative Assembly even requested for the merger of schools with fewer students. "A few members of the Legislative Assembly, both ruling and opposition, requested for the merger of schools," he added.

CM, Ashoka engage in banter over 'naati koli'

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka were engaged in a lively banter on Monday over the topic of 'naati koli' (country chicken) at the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi.

The banter began, when Siddaramaiah casually asked Ashoka why he had lost weight. "I have given up eating naati koli, sir," Ashoka replied. "You shouldn't give it up. You need to eat, I say," the reference to the chief minister's breakfast meeting with Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on December 2 at the latter's residence, where he took idli with 'naati koli' saaru.

After the breakfast, Ashoka had taken offence to Siddaramaiah consuming non-veg on Hanuma Jayanti



R Ashoka



Siddaramaiah

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	Malaysia Kuala Lumpur City Tour, Twin Tower, Putrajaya City Tour, Batu Caves, Gentling Highlands. Dates: JAN 12, 19, 26. FEB 9, 16, 23. MAR 9, 16, 23. APR 6, 13, 27. MAY 4, 18, 25. JUN 8, 22. 9364104366	4 DAYS
	Thailand Pattaya, Coral Island, Gems Gallery, Alcazar Show, Nong Nooch Village, Cultural Show, Elephant Show, Bangkok City Tour, Safari World, Marine Park, Dolphin & Sea Lion Show, Orangutan Show, Bird Show. Dates: JAN 15, 22, 29. FEB 12, 19, 26. MAR 12, 19, 26. APR 9, 16, 30. MAY 7, 21, 28. JUN 11, 25. 9364104373	5 DAYS
	Top of Thailand Chiang Mai: Night Safari, Doi Inthanon, Trekking at Phadokseaw Tour, Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, Hiking. Wat Phra That Doi Suthep Chiang Rai: The Blue Temple, Doi Suthep Temple and Monthatan Waterfall Adventure Trial, Wat Rong Khun - White Temple, Black Museum, Golden Triangle. Dates: JAN 19, 26. FEB 2, 16, 23. MAR 2, 16, 23, 30. APR 13, 20. MAY 4, 11, 25. JUN 1, 15, 29. 7022259008	5 DAYS
	Phuket - Krabi Phuket, Fantasea, Phi Phi Island, Krabi, 4 Island Tour. Dates: JAN 19, 26. FEB 2, 16, 23. MAR 2, 16, 23, 30. APR 13, 20. MAY 4, 11, 25. JUN 1, 15, 29. 9364104366	5 DAYS
	Singapore - Malaysia Singapore + Malaysia Dates: JAN 8, 15, 22. FEB 5, 12, 19. MAR 5, 12, 19. APR 2, 9, 23, 30. MAY 14, 21. JUN 4, 18. 7975001525	8 DAYS
	Singapore - Malaysia - Thailand Singapore + Malaysia + Thailand Dates: JAN 8, 15, 22. FEB 5, 12, 19. MAR 5, 12, 19. APR 2, 9, 23, 30. MAY 14, 21. JUN 4, 18. 9364104366	12 DAYS
	Amazing Thailand Pattaya, Coral Island, Gems Gallery, Alcazar Show, Nong Nooch Village, Cultural Show, Elephant Show, Bangkok Temple & City Tour, Safari World & Marine Park, Dolphin & Sea Lion Show, Orangutan Show, Bird Show, Phuket, Phi Phi Island, Krabi, 4 Island Tour. Dates: JAN 15, 22, 29. FEB 12, 19, 26. MAR 12, 19, 26. APR 9, 16, 30. MAY 7, 21, 28. JUN 11, 25. 9364104366	9 DAYS
	Naturally Thailand Pattaya, Coral Island, Gems Gallery, Alcazar Show, Nong Nooch Village, Cultural Show, Elephant Show, Bangkok Temple & City Tour, Safari World & Marine Park, Dolphin & Sea Lion Show, Orangutan Show, Bird Show, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai. Dates: JAN 15, 22, 29. FEB 12, 19, 26. MAR 12, 19, 26. APR 9, 16, 30. MAY 7, 21, 28. JUN 11, 25. 7022259008	9 DAYS
	Singapore - Malaysia - Thailand - 1 Singapore + Malaysia + Amazing Thailand Dates: JAN 8, 15, 22. FEB 5, 12, 19. MAR 5, 12, 19. APR 2, 9, 23, 30. MAY 14, 21. JUN 4, 18. 9364104366	16 DAYS
	Singapore - Malaysia - Thailand - 2 Singapore + Malaysia + Naturally Thailand Dates: JAN 8, 15, 22. FEB 5, 12, 19. MAR 5, 12, 19. APR 2, 9, 23, 30. MAY 14, 21. JUN 4, 18. 7022259008	16 DAYS
	Malaysia - Thailand Malaysia + Thailand Dates: JAN 12, 19, 26. FEB 9, 16, 23. MAR 9, 16, 23. APR 6, 13, 27. MAY 4, 18, 25. JUN 8, 22. 7975001525	8 DAYS
	Malaysia - Thailand - 1 Malaysia + Amazing Thailand Dates: JAN 12, 19, 26. FEB 9, 16, 23. MAR 9, 16, 23. APR 6, 13, 27. MAY 4, 18, 25. JUN 8, 22. 7022259007	12 DAYS
	Malaysia - Thailand - 2 Malaysia + Naturally Thailand Dates: JAN 12, 19, 26. FEB 9, 16, 23. MAR 9, 16, 23. APR 6, 13, 27. MAY 4, 18, 25. JUN 8, 22. 7022259007	12 DAYS
	Bali - The Land of Gods Denpasar, Nusa Penida Island, Kintamani, Ubud, Garuda Wisnu Cultural Park, Tanah Lot, Beratan Lake, Ulun Danu, Taman Ayun, Tanjung Benoa Beach, Uluwatu, Besakih, Tirta Empul, Lempuyang Temple, Tirta Gangga, Kings Palace, Bat Caves Temple. Dates: JAN 5, 19. FEB 2, 16. MAR 2, 16. APR 7, 13, 20. MAY 4, 11, 18. JUN 1, 15. 9364104373	5/7/9 DAYS

RGUHS fee hike leaves affiliated colleges in shock

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The colleges affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) were shocked by the "exorbitant" increase in the affiliation fee fixed by the university for the next academic year.

"The university has increased (fee) almost three times for a few courses which is unscientific. We had paid Rs

1.76 lakh for renewal of affiliation for B Pharm course but next year, with the revised fees, we have to pay Rs 3.63 lakh," said a member of a pharmacy college management in Bengaluru. For Pharm D course, it has been revised from existing Rs 1.26 lakh to Rs 3.63 lakh.

As per the notification issued by the RGUHS, the varsity has

hiked - application fee, annual fee, renewal fee, administrative fees, institution helinet fee and course identification fee.

"Of all these, renewal, fresh affiliation and administrative fees matter most and for some institutions it is impossible to pay," said a member of a nursing college management.

It seems like the university

is curbing the coming up of nursing colleges as it has increased the affiliation fee for new the colleges from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 15 lakh. The fee for setting up a new medical college has been increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh. Dental college's new application fee is now Rs 20 lakh up from existing Rs 8 lakh.

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IndiGo chaos: Govt talks of strict action to set example

Indigo, Page 1

On IndiGo, he said there were “a lot of internal complications” and the airline should have maintained its affairs properly. “IndiGo was supposed to manage the roster. We are there to check if the FDTL is implemented or not. We even had a meeting with IndiGo on December 1. They had not flagged this issue,” he said.

Asked how the government plans to ensure that no one airline has market dominance like IndiGo, Naidu said the Indian aviation market is growing in such a way it has space for five big airlines. “We want more airlines. India has capacity for five big airlines,” he said.

11-yr-old boy dies after coming under sugarcane-laden tractor

NALATWAD (VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT), DHNS: In a heart-wrenching incident, an 11-year-old boy died after coming under the wheel of a sugarcane-laden tractor on Karakoora Road in Nalatwad town in Vijayapura district on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Chandan Jagadish Gondhalia, resident of Nalatwad. His body was almost severed in half as the tractor drove over him. While a few onlookers on the road came to his aid, some were seen capturing his suffering on their mobile phones. The Muddebihal police have registered a case.

Power play: Siddaramaiah will be CM for full term, reiterates Yathindra

High command will take the final call, says chief minister

BELAGAVI, DHNS:

Factional infighting within the Congress resurfaced on Monday with MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah stating that he was “personally confident” of his father continuing as the chief minister for a full five-year term, even as Siddaramaiah himself reiterated that the final decision was left to the high command.

Speaking to reporters, Yathindra said: “According to me, there’s no leadership change for now. So, I am con-

fident of him (Siddaramaiah) completing a full five-year term.” “There was some confusion because the DCM (DK Shivakumar) said he wanted to become the chief minister. There will be aspirants in each party. But the high command has said they will not take any decision on it for now.” However, when asked about his son’s statement, the chief minister maintained that the high command would take the final call.

DKS camp retorts
In a sharp retort, Mandya MLA

Ravikumar Gowda Ganiga, a known loyalist of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, said: “Siddaramaiah has said that D K Shivakumar will become the chief minister when the high command says. Best of luck, Yathindra.”

Asked if the rules were different for Yathindra than other MLAs who were served notices for speaking on the issue, Ravikumar said these issues would be discussed in the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting.

‘Politics not stagnant water’
Meanwhile, Madhugiri MLA and former minister K N Rajanna pitched Home Minister G Parameshwara’s name as a potential chief ministerial candidate.

Responding to a reporter

who asked if Shivakumar was the “only option” in the event of a change, Rajanna said: “How many people are there in the Congress? In 2013, Dr G Parameshwara was the (KPCC) president. He also played a key role in bringing the Congress government to power. Even he has to be considered. Not just because he is a Dalit but his contribution is also there behind the party coming to power in 2013.”

Noting that politics was not “stagnant water,” the Madhugiri MLA he will not be a minister if D K Shivakumar becomes the chief minister.

“In the CLP meeting, there was a voting and the CLP leader (Siddaramaiah) was elected for a period of five years. If there has to be a change now, he will have to resign. Till then, he will be the leader,” he said.

74 seats unfilled after KEA 3rd round counselling

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Seventy-four medical seats have been left unfilled in the third/mop-up round seat allotment for medical and dental courses.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) announced the results of the third round medical and dental seats allotment on Monday, with all dental seats filled.

Following the High Court’s order, the Authority announced the final results of the third round of seat allotment for UG medical and dental courses.

Selected candidates must pay the required fees by Dec 10 (after adjusting any fees already paid). They must download the seat allotment letter and report to their respective colleges by Dec 11, KEA executive director H Prasanna said.

In this round, 1,080 candidates were allotted medical seats and 266 got dental seats. However, 74 medical seats under the management quota remain vacant after this round. All dental seats are filled, he said.

Malayalam actor Dileep acquitted in actor rape case

Dileep, from Page 1

Dileep and Manju got divorced in 2015 and Dileep then married Kavya, who also got divorced from her first husband.

To prove Dileep’s involvement in the case, the prosecution produced several digital evidences like photographs of Dileep with Pulsar Suni, mobile phone location records, statement of filmmaker Balachandra Kumar that he had seen Pulsar Suni at Dileep’s house and cash transactions.

Despite statements by many regarding Dileep’s animosity with the victim, 28 witnesses, including prominent film personalities, turned hostile. Lack of direct evidence is learnt to have led to Dileep’s acquittal.

Those found guilty are Pulsar Suni, Martin Antony, B Manikandan, V P Vijesh, H Salim alias Vadiyal Salim and Pradeep. They were found guilty under IPC 120 B for criminal conspiracy, IPC 340 for wrongful confinement, IPC 354 for assault or use of criminal force on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty, IPC 366 for kidnapping or abducting a woman to compel marriage or force illicit intercourse, IPC 354 B

for using criminal force on a woman with intent to disrobe her or compel her to be naked and IPC 376 D for gang rape. The court will pronounce the sentence on Dec 12.

Apart from Dileep, others acquitted were Charlie Thomas, Sanil Kumar alias Mesthiri Sanil and G Sarath. They were accused of helping the accused and tampering with evidence. Kerala Law Minister P Rajeev said an appeal would be filed against the verdict.

“Only one part of the case is proved. I have discussed the matter with the CM and it was decided to file an appeal. The government will continue to firmly support the survivor,” Rajeev said.

Dressed in white shirt and blue jeans, Dileep, who evaded media while going to the court room, came out jubilant, waving to fans.

“The real conspiracy was against me to spoil my career and personal life. It all started after Manju (Manju Warrior) spoke about the conspiracy. A group of criminal police personnel and a senior police officer cooked up stories against me and spread it through a section of media and social media. All those cooked up stories have now been proven false,” he told the media.

Goa nightclub fire: Owners fled to Phuket after tragedy

Goa, from Page 1

After registering an FIR against them, a Look Out Circular was issued against them by December 7 by the Bureau of Intelligence (BOI) at the request of the Goa Police.

The Bureau of Immigration at Mumbai was contacted, and it was found that both the accused had taken the 6E 1073 flight to Phuket at 5.30 am

on December 7, immediately after the fire incident, which occurred around midnight, the officer said.

He said the Goa Police had immediately dispatched a team to Delhi to conduct raids on the addresses of the accused Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra.

“Since they were not available, a notice under the appropriate sections of law was

pasted on the gate of their house. This shows their intent to avoid the police investigation,” he said.

Goa Police have obtained transit remand of Bharat Kohli, an employee of the club, and are bringing him to Goa.

He also said that the post-mortem on all 25 deceased has been completed and bodies handed over to their families.

Goraguntepalya, Mysuru Rd..

Metro, from Page 1

But this required constructing structures as tall as 46.5 metres to accommodate the double-decker at Peenya due to steep gradient.

To avoid this, the BMRCL relocated the station to Goraguntepalya, shortening the alignment by 200 metres, cutting cost by Rs 669 crore and reducing portal beams from 61 to 14, as *DH* reported in August.

The rail level of Sumanahalli Cross, a common station for Orange and Silver lines, will stand at 26 metres, with platforms located one above the other.

JP Nagar, another interchange station, will have a rail level of 22 metres, connecting the Green and Orange line stations by an FOB. At JP Nagar 4th Phase, the Pink and Orange line stations will have a common concourse, with the flyover running above them.

At Sunkadakatte, located on the Silver Line, the flyover will run above the metro line.

At Kempapura, there will be a common station for the Orange and Blue lines.

BMRCL is expected to float civil work tenders for Phase 3 in the coming days, with a 2031 deadline.

Agricultural Produce Market Committee.
Arakalagodu
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08175221779
No.DAM/APMC/(ARKLGD)/241/2025-26 Date: 03.12.2025

Brief Tender Notification (Only through e-procurement system)

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Arakalagodu Invites Itemwise Tender in two covers system to be submitted through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Act 1999, 2000 Rules and as per related order, circular issued in Public Works Department and e-procurement portal and eligible as per Standard Tender Documents KW-3 Clause 3 (with latest amendments) work PROVIDING SHEET ROOFING AT OP AND INFRONT OF 17 NO SHOPS AND CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD WITH DRAIN FOR 4TH CROSS ROAD AT MAIN MARKET YARD OF APMC ARAKALAGUDU APPROVED UNDER 2025-26 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN Work Indent No. APMC/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT752 Tender amount of works is Rs.97,98,492.96 E.M.D Amount is Rs1,96,000.00. Last date for receipt of filled technical and financial documents: 20/12/2025 at 4.00 PM , Further details can be obtained through website <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>or during office hours.

Sd/- Administrator, APMC,
Channarayapattana

Sd/- Secretary, APMC,
Channarayapattana

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No. KSBCL/2025-26/AUCTION12 Date:08.12.2025

e- AUCTION NOTICE
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement portal only)

Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Limited has decided to invest ₹125.00 crores in Fixed Deposits(Non-callable) for a tenure of one year with Public Sector Banks including Regional Rural Banks and Private Sector Banks in the Ratio of 60:40. Competitive Interest Rates are invited from these Banks through e-Auction for acceptance of deposits. Terms and conditions are available at website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home> and www.ksbcl.com from 08.12.2025 onwards.

Sd/-
Executive Director
(Fin & MIS)

DIPR/GP/JA/4302/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, DAKSHINA KANNADA, MANGALORE
Email: adtourismmangalore@gmail.com Telephone No: 0824-2453926
No:TD/DD/DK/IM/97/2024-25 Date: 08-12-2025

E-TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

District Tourism Development Committee, Dakshina Kannada is inviting E-tender from the interested, eligible and experienced bidders for the maintenance and development of Thannirbavi Beach, Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada district through e-procurement. The terms and conditions of the tender can be obtained from the e-procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Interested institutions, companies or individuals can participate in tender by paying EMD amount through e-procurement portal. The last date for the submission of tender is extended upto **15th December 2025, 5.30 p.m.** and PRE-BID Meet will be organized at the Deputy Commissioner's Office on **10-12-2025 at 11.00 am**

Sd/- Deputy Director And member secretary
District Tourism Development Committee,
Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/121/ 25-26 dt. 08.12.2025

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Website: www.hescom.gov.in

No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P2/AEE-2/2025-26/18054
Date: 08-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through K.P.P.P. Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites tenders for “**Selection of Solar Power Generators (SPGs) on the basis of Build Own & Operate (BOO) for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of grid connected distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected Agri feeders at Sub-Station (SS) level in HESCOM jurisdiction totally covering approximate 22,000 IP sets, its associated 11kV line to connect the plant with concerned SS and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under Component C-Feeder Level Solarization of PM-KUSUM scheme**” vide Indent No: HESCOM/2025-26/ SE0708 /CALL-3 Dt. 08.12.2025.

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the **website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>** on or after 08-12-2025.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Projects Monitoring Cell,
HESCOM, Hubli

DIPR/Dharwad/955/Manipal/2025-26

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: KPTCL/B16/44953/2023-24(Counselling) Date: 08.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance to KPTCL Employment Notification dated 14.10.2024 and Final Selection Lists published on 06.08.2025 & 25.08.2025 for the posts of **Junior Station Attendant(KK/NKK) and Junior Powerman(KK/NKK)** in KPTCL, the counselling process for issuing appointment orders to the selected candidates is scheduled to be held on **10.12.2025 and 11.12.2025** at KPTCL Accounts Officers' Association, Silver Jubilee Building, Race Course Cross Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru-560009. For more details please visit **Recruitment link** in KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Director (Admn. & HR)
Corporate Office, KPTCL,
Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru- 560 009.

**BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible Bidders for Procurement of following T&P materials.

Sl. No.	Description	Enquiry No.
1	Procurement of Chain Saw	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0170 Call-2
2	Procurement of Tree Pruner	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0171 Call-2

Bid Documents available: 09.12.2025 onwards. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 24.12.2025, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 26.12.2025, 11:00 Hrs.

The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.),
Procurement, BESCOM

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(3)/2025-26/4066-70 Date: 06.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL Invites bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/JE-1/25-26/EPR-10 **CALL-3** Dated: 25.06.2025 for “**Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of Copper Control cable of the various sizes, required at various sub-stations in Tr (Op) Circle-South KPTCL Bengaluru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading**”

The Bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 09.12.2025. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele, Tr (Operations)
Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex,
Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009

**BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd cross road, Jaladarshini layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bangalore-54
No: EE/MLM/KPPP/09/2025-26 Date: 06-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>** only) The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC invites Proposals through Karnataka Public Procurement portal from eligible bidder's long term leasing of BWCC Pedal Court in Sadashivanagara.

All interested bidders shall submit their Technical and Commercial / Financial bids electronically through Karnataka Public Procurement portal (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

The Tender Schedule is as mentioned below:

1	Subject : Operation of BBMP Padel court in Sadashivanagara, Bengaluru
2	Date from which Bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on 08-12-2025 from 15:00 hours
3	Date of Pre-bid meeting and venue: 15-12-2025 at 15:00 hours Office of the Commissioner, BWCC, IPP center, 16th cross road, Vyalikaval, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru -560003
4	Last date for seeking Clarification if any 12-12-2025 upto 15:00 hours
5	Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform 20-12-2025 upto 17:00 hours
6	Date and Time of opening of tenders: Technical Bid and Technical Evaluation 22-12-2025 at 17:30 hours
7	Contact Person for Queries Assistant Revenue officer (Estate) No.148A, 26th cross, 2nd block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru-560 010.
8	Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for communication Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd cross road, Jaladarshini layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru.
9	EMD Amount: ₹.2,40,300/- payable in KPPP portal

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through Karnataka Public Procurement portal System only in the manner described under instruction to Tenderers of RFP Documents on or before the last and time Stipulated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Malleshwaram Division, Zone II
Bengaluru West City Corporation

**Office of the Court of Small Causes, Bengaluru - 560 009.**
No.: SCC/ADM II/94/2025 Date: 03.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Order of the Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes Bengaluru. Dated: 11.11.2025.

Sealed quotation are invited from the reputed firms for purchase of Bio-Metric devices with latest version software (compatible to Ubuntu/Linux) and the comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract including installation and taking backup from the old version for existing Bio-Metric e-time track (05 machines) with Smart Office Software placed at of Court of Small Causes, Bengaluru as per the requirement and orders placed. The quotations have to reach the undersigned **on or before 5.00 p.m. of 29.12.2025**, in a sealed cover super scribed as “**purchase of Bio-Metric devices with latest version software**” addressed to the Registrar, Court of Small Causes, Bengaluru. The sealed Quotations will be opened at **2.30 p.m. on 30.12.2025** before the Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Bengaluru.

Sd/- Registrar, Court of Small Causes, Bengaluru.

DIPR/DD-C.P/4268/KSMCA/2025-26

**KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani - 591304. Taluk: Athani, Dist: Belagann.

No:KNNL/HBC/PB/TND/Overhauling/2025-26/2964 Date: 06-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - (CALL-2)
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders in Electronic mode on “Percentage Basis” are invited on behalf of the **Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru**, by the **Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani** in Two Cover System (**Cover-I and Cover-II**), from the eligible tenderer **Transformer Manufacturer / Transformer Service**. The details of the works are listed below. The tenderers are required to submit bid in Two Cover System. As per **Standard Bid Document of KC-6**.

The contractors are expected to apply in Two Cover System (as per KTTP Act 2000) i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid. The blank tender documents can be obtained through Website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kpp-portal/index.seam under H.B.C. Division, Athani. (**Total 1 Works**)

The Approximate Estimated Cost of Work is Rs. 68.99 Lakhs

1) The contractor can request for e-Tendering Documents: **from 09-12-2025 at 10.30 AM to 17-12-2025 upto 4.00 PM.**

2) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries: **16-12-2025 upto 4.00 PM.**

3) Last Date for Submission of Completed e-Tendering Document: **from 09-12-2025 at 10.30 AM to 17-12-2025 upto 4.00 PM.**

4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid at EE, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani: **19-12-2025 at 11.00 AM.**

5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid at EE, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani: **After Approval of Technical Bid.**

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on Telephone: **08289-251034** and H.P company helpline: **080-22485867.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL, HBC Division, Athani.

DIPR/Belagavi/1453/Advertio/2025-26

Ensure no voter is left out, Stalin tells DMK cadre

CHENNAI, DHNS: With the draft electoral rolls set to be published next week after the completion of the enumeration phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), DMK President M K Stalin on Monday asked party cadre to ensure that they visit every house and thoroughly verify the details of voters who might have been left out.

Addressing district secretaries via video conferencing on 'My Booth, My Victory', Stalin said that though the DMK cadre have worked hard for the past month during the SIR exercise, only 50% of their tasks are complete.

The remaining task will be to ensure that no voter is left out and to add their name by either filing an appeal or enrolling as a new voter before the SIR is completed in February.

Stalin said that though the cadre worked tirelessly, they should not 'underestimate' the 'opponents' who will use government agencies against them.

"Every booth committee member must ensure that they visit each house. They must thoroughly verify the details of voters who might have been left out. Every house must receive leaflets on the achievements of the Dravidian model government," he said.

The DMK president also asked them to reach out to 2.5 crore beneficiaries of various schemes implemented by the government and request them to vote for the party.

Chinese tourist detained in Kashmir over visa violations

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Security agencies in Kashmir have detained a 29-year-old Chinese national, Hu Congtai, for allegedly violating visa norms and moving across sensitive areas in Ladakh and Kashmir, raising serious national security concerns.

Hu is currently being questioned at Police Post Humhama in Budgam, with multiple intelligence and security agencies involved in the probe, officials said. Hu arrived in New Delhi on November 19 on a tourist visa valid only for select Buddhist destinations, including Varanasi, Agra, New Delhi, Jaipur, Sarnath, Gaya and Kushinagar.

Despite these restrictions, he reportedly flew to Leh on November 20 without registering at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), a mandatory requirement for foreign visitors in Ladakh, officials said.

From November 25, Hu stayed in Zanskar for three days, visiting monasteries and cultural sites. Police later instructed him to leave after confirming that his visa did not cover the Union Territory. On his onward journey, he stayed in Budgam before reaching Srinagar on December 1, where he lodged in an unregistered guesthouse.

Authorities raised the alarm over his movements in Srinagar, where Hu visited several sensitive locations, including Shankaracharya Hills, Hazratbal Shrine, and Buddhist site at Harwan — near an area where a Lashkar-e-Taiba operative was killed last year.

Vande Mataram a 'political tool' for BJP: Oppn in LS

PM slammed for referring to its composer as 'Bankim da'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opposition MPs on Monday sought to attack the ruling BJP, alleging that those who did not participate in the Independence struggle were trying to use Vande Mataram as a "political tool" to divide the country.

A discussion on the 150th year of the national song, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, saw both sides referring to the upcoming West Bengal elections. Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav said certain elements were using Vande Mataram to create rifts, and using the British's "divide and rule" policy.

Senior Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched a scathing attack on Narendra Modi, claiming that he is not the Prime Minister he used to be, as his 'self-confidence is declining' and policies 'weakening' the country.

Seeking to corner the government during the debate, she said the NDA has pushed for a discussion on the national song due to the upcoming



Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament. PTI

West Bengal elections and to divert attention from the pressing problems people were facing.

She also referred to relentless attack by Modi and the BJP on country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and said the government should now fix time – 10 hours, 20 hours or 40 hours – to settle the matter "for once and all" and then take up discussions on price rise, unemployment and women's issues.

"There are two reasons for the debate on Vande Mataram. One, elections are coming up in West Bengal. In such a situation, our prime minister wants to establish his role and, second, those who fought the

freedom struggle, sacrificed for the country – this government wants an opportunity to impose new accusations on them. By doing this, the government wants to divert the country's attention from the pressing issues," she said.

DMK MP A Raja said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked who caused a division in Vande Mataram. I want to know: Did the division in Vande Mataram lead to the country's division? And if the PM says a crucial aspect must be dealt with today, what exactly is that crucial division we need to understand now?"

Trinamool MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar said Vande Mataram was not only a

national song but also what millions sang to fuel the Independence struggle.

BJP MPs raised the slogan "Bihar ki jeet hamari hai, ab Bengal ki baari hai" (We won Bihar. It's now Bengal's turn) as Modi entered the Lok Sabha.

Modi referring to Chattopadhyay as Bankim da sparked protests, and so he switched to Bankim babu. "PM Modi referred to Chattopadhyay as Bankim da, giving the impression that he was having a casual conversation with the literary icon at a tea shop. Bengalis will not tolerate the belittling of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay," said Dastidar.

MARITIME THEATRE



Navy personnel take part in a rehearsal ahead of the Navy Day Beating Retreat and Tattoo Ceremony, at the Gateway of India, in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

Name census functionaries by Jan 15: Registrar General of India to states

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Registrar General of India (RGI) has directed all the states and Union territories to complete the appointment of census functionaries—the officers responsible for the massive data collection exercise—by January 15, 2026, according to a latest circular.

The enumerators and supervisors are the primary census functionaries responsible for data collection during the exercise, the circular said.

"An Enumerator is to be assigned the work of about 700-800 population and one Supervisor is to be engaged for every six Enumerators. Besides, there shall be 10% reserve Enumerators and Supervisors for any contingencies," it said.

The RGI said, according to Rule 3 of the Census Rules-1990, teachers, clerks or any official of a state government, local authority etc. can be appointed as an enumerator, while a supervisor will be an officer generally of a rank higher than that of the enumerator.

In addition, the states will also appoint census officers. In the districts, the district



collectors, district magistrates or any nominated officers are designated as principal census officers, who will be responsible for the census operations in their jurisdiction.

Similarly, in a division, wherever it exists, the divisional commissioner will act as the divisional census officer, while in a municipal corporation, the municipal commissioner and the administrative head of the civic body would function as the principal census officer or additional principal census officer or charge officer, as the case may be.

During the upcoming census, about 30 lakh field functionaries will be deployed to complete the task of taking the population count across the country within a fixed time frame.

The RGI has developed a web portal—Census Manage-

ment and Monitoring System (CMMS) for Census 2027—to manage and monitor all activities like the appointment of enumerators and supervisors, assigning the enumeration blocks and supervisory circles to them and real-time progress of the field work.

"With all these new initiatives for Census 2027, it becomes all the more important to initiate the appointment of Census officers well in advance and complete all other formalities like registration of Census functionaries on CMMS portal with correct and complete details," the circular said.

It added that though the appointment of enumerators and supervisors, who will be undertaking the actual data collection, will be done later, they need to be identified in advance and registered on the CMMS portal.

The Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases—the first, the House Listing and Housing Census, between April and September 2026 and the second, Population Enumeration, in February 2027.

Vande Mataram marginalised, says Rajnath Singh

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS



Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the national anthem got more respect than the national song, which was 'marginalised'.

"Today, as we celebrate the glorious journey of Vande Mataram for a century and a half, we must accept the truth that Vande Mataram did not receive the justice it deserved... There was talk of giving equal status to the national anthem and the national song. But one became an integral part of our national consciousness ... that song was our Jana Gana Mana, but the other song was mar-

ginalised and neglected. That song is Vande Mataram. It was treated like an extra," Rajnath said.

"Honouring Vande Mataram on the same lines as the National Anthem under Article 51 (a) of the Constitution, would be the perfect tribute to the National Song, along with Bankim Babu," he added.

Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur said the song does not hurt any religious sentiments. "Vande Mataram does not hurt any religious sentiments. It is the song of India's glory," he said.

Thakur said the UPA government in 2006 had taken a decision that the song would be sung in all educational institutions. "... but the government had to relent to radicalists and their idea and made it 'voluntary' from 'compulsory'," Thakur said.

Party spokesperson Sambit Patra said both the Gandhi siblings were not present when the prime minister gave his speech. "In his speech, PM Modi spoke about how the original version of the Vande Mataram was cut down at the behest of Jawaharlal Nehru to appease Muhammad Ali Jinnah. These seeds of division led to the partition of India," Patra said.

Linking patriotism to religion is unconstitutional: Owaisi

NEW DELHI, PTI: AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday said that linking patriotism to any single religion or identity is against constitutional principles and will increase social division.

Participating in a discussion on the '150 years of national song Vande Mataram' in the Lok Sabha, Owaisi said the Constitution grants equal rights to all citizens, and this right cannot be associated with any religious identity or symbol.

He said the Constitution begins with "We the People", and not with the name of any god or goddess. Linking patriotism to any single religion or identity is against constitutional principles and will increase social division, Owaisi said.

He described the liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship written in the Preamble as the foundation of democracy, and said the State cannot be the property of any one religion.

Referring to the debates in the Constituent Assembly, he said the amendments regarding Vande Mataram were considered, but the proposal to begin the Preamble with the name of a goddess was never accepted.

The Hyderabad MP said the Indian Muslims are staunch opponents of Jinnah, that is precisely why they decided to stay in India.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND
Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878
e-mail juidcolimited@gmail.com, CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

Project Name: RFP for Selection of Agency for Providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi.
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/RB/OM/675
PR No.: 365299
Tender ID: 2025 UDD 106278_1
This is for information of all the bidders that following Corrigendum is being made in tender documents for **“RFP for Selection of Agency for Providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi”**.
The bidders are advised to take into account the following Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender.

Corrigendum - 3				
Sl. No.	Bid Document Ref.	Description	As per Corrigendum - 2	As per Corrigendum - 3
1.	NIT	Last Date & Time of submission of Bid, Tender Fee and EMD online	08/12/2025 at 17:00 Hrs	17/12/2025 at 17:00 Hrs
2.		Date & Time of Bid Opening	09/12/2025 at 17:00 Hrs	18/12/2025 at 17:00 Hrs

Note: Other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Sd/-
PR 367984 Urban Development and Housing(25-26).D
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.

No.: DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/16/2025-26 **Date: 08.12.2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Only Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Amount Rs.in lakhs	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Stipulated Period of Service Contract
1.	Transportation of RDF from Subbarayanapalya / Kannahalli MSW processing plant to cement industries.	477.80	Rs. 1.00 lakh through e-payment under the following i.e. online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.6,16,700/- by Bank Guarantee / FDR issued by Nationalised / Scheduled Bank.	06 Months

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Pre bid meeting: **12.12.2025 at 15:00 hours** in office of the Chief Engineer / Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052. (2) Last date of submission of Bids in KPP Portal: **17.12.2025 before 16:00 hours**. (3) The Technical Bid opening date in KPP Portal: **18.12.2025 after 16:30 hours**.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4304/SSC/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ನಂ.39-821, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ., ಭವನ, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ ಹೊರಲಿನ್ ರಾಣಿಯ ಹತ್ತಿರ,
ಸುಬೇದಾರ್ ಭತ್ತಂ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಆಅನಿ/ಟೆಂ.ಕೆ.ಬಾ/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.12.2025

ನಿಗಮದ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಾದ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ತರಬೇತಿ, ಗಂಗಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಏಕ ನಿರಾಮಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಗಂಗಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಬಾಗಿಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಕೊರೆಯುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹೌಸ್ ಕೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಂ.	ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ/ ಸೇವೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1.	KMDCL/2025-26/ SE0016/Call-2	VERTICAL TRANSPORTATION (ELEVATOR) TECHNICIAN Training	40.00	
2.	KMDCL/2025-26/ SE0017/Call-2	ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ತರಬೇತಿ A.Guest Service Associate (Food & Beverage) B. Solar PV Installer Electrical	61.60	
3.	KMDCL/2025-26/	Lift Irrigation Bijapur District Package No: 05	83.56	
4.	KMDCL/2025-26/	Lift Irrigation Kalaburgi District Package No: 06	143.50	
5.	KMDCL/2025-26/	Lift Irrigation Bidar District Package No: 07	104.42	
6.	KMDCL/2025-26/OW/ WORK_INDENT74	DRILLING OF 165MM DIA BOREWELL UNDER GANGA KALYANA SCHEME ON "NO WATER NO MONEY BASIS" IN BAGALKOTE DISTRICT PACKAGE- 14 Call-2 FOR THE YEAR 2025-26	72.13	
7.	KMDCL/CR/HK/ 2025-26/0001	"Tender for providing housekeeping and security service"	36.00	
8.	KMDCL/CR/HO/ 2025-26/0004	Tender for providing outsource staff service at head office of KMDC	140.00	
9.		Tender for providing outsource staff service at District office of KMDC	270.00	09.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ: 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

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MEA advises discretion in travel to China

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Monday advised its nationals to be careful while travelling to or transiting through China, more than two weeks after a woman from Arunachal Pradesh was allegedly harassed at the Shanghai airport.

New Delhi also said that it expects the Chinese authorities to provide assurance that Indian citizens transiting through Chinese airports will not be "selectively targeted and harassed".

India also hoped that regulations governing international air travel would be respected by the Chinese authorities.

The Indian national, Pema Wang Thongdok, had alleged that Chinese immigration officials at the Shanghai airport detained her for 18 hours on November 21 during a transit halt after refusing to recognise her Indian passport as her birthplace is Arunachal Pradesh.

"We fully share your concern following the recent

incident at Shanghai airport that you have cited," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing while responding to a question on the incident.

"We expect the Chinese authorities to provide assurances that Indian citizens transiting through Chinese airports will not be selectively targeted, arbitrarily detained or harassed and that regulations governing international air travel would be respected by the Chinese side," he said.

Jaiswal said the Ministry of External Affairs would "advise Indian nationals to exercise due discretion while travelling to or transiting through China".

After India last month protested the alleged harassment of Thongdok, the Chinese foreign ministry rejected the allegations saying the actions were in accordance with the regulations. Thongdok had said Chinese immigration officials detained her for 18 hours on the ground that her passport was "invalid".

An inevitable outcome of negligence

The death of 25 people in a fire at a nightclub in north Goa, on December 6, is yet another reminder of the fatal nexus between those who violate the law and those entrusted with enforcing it. The fire and the deaths were the result of criminal negligence of safety norms, and the authorities' failure to implement rules and regulations. Among the victims were four tourists. With Goa in the midst of its busy tourist season, when facilities are crowded, and demand is high, special attention should have been paid to public safety and convenience. Tourist season is meant to be a time of celebrations, yet this tragedy underscores serious lapses in the system. It was not an accident, but an inevitable outcome of omissions and commissions in matters of safety.

Reports indicate that the club lacked valid permissions and had violated numerous fire safety norms. Fire engines could not reach the building because the entrance was very narrow. A temporary structure made of palm leaves increased the fire risk, and there was no emergency exit. The vulnerability of resorts and establishments in Goa has been pointed out before: faulty construction, missing or fraudulently obtained fire safety clearances, and kitchens that are not maintained safely. In this case, the fire started in the kitchen. Despite lacking mandatory permissions, the nightclub functioned openly, and advertised and hosted parties and functions. There were no enquiries and investigations from officials, and that shows the complicity of the authorities in the crime. This would include not only officials but also those in politics and government.

The situation is much the same all over India. There is no city or town in the country where a major fire has not claimed lives. The Carlton Towers fire in Bengaluru in 2010, the Uphaar Cinema fire in Delhi in 1997, the AMRI hospital fire in Kolkata in 2011, and tragedies at many other places have resulted in deaths, injuries, and damage on a large scale. Every day, there are fire incidents reported from different parts of the country. They could all be prevented or contained, and the damage minimised if precautions were taken, and rules enforced. Unfortunately, no lessons are learnt from these mishaps. Some persons are arrested, or suspended, and enquiry commissions are announced. But cases drag on for years, often without the culprits getting punished. Firefighting infrastructure remains grossly inadequate. Unless safety culture becomes integral to everyday life and law enforcement is taken seriously, fire mishaps will continue without end.

Growth takes priority over inflation

It was widely expected that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would reduce the repo rate at its meeting last week and send out a fresh signal that it would promote economic growth. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has done that by making a 25-basis-point cut in the rate, bringing it down to 5.25%. It has reduced rates by a cumulative 125 basis points this year, and it is biggest easing of rates after the pandemic era. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that the present moment was a "rare Goldilocks period" when strong GDP numbers co-existed with inflation at a benign 2.2%. The economy grew at a robust 8.2% in the second quarter, and is projected to grow at 7.3% in the current fiscal. The rupee's exchange rate has been falling, and has breached the Rs 90 per dollar mark. Malhotra also made the realistic announcement that the central bank would allow the domestic currency to find its correct market-determined level.

The RBI's neutral stance marks a considered and calibrated shift from inflation control to growth support. Strong growth was observed across important sectors, including manufacturing and services, though the nominal GDP growth at 8.8% during the year's first half was lower than the 10.1% projected in the Budget. Inflation is below the bank's target and tolerance limit, and inflation forecasts do not indicate any serious uptick in the coming quarters. Industry has generally welcomed the cut as a measure that will help to boost credit off take, consumption, and investment. Working capital and investment loans will become cheaper, and it can help capital expenditure to pick up. It will be welcomed by borrowers too as home loans and other forms of retail credit will come cheaper. The RBI policy aligns with the government's strategy of boosting consumer demand, which was seen in the decisions to cut income tax and GST rates.

Monetary easing alone cannot propel India into a higher growth orbit. Banks should be able to pass on the rates to the customers, and the government should support the new credit regime with fiscal discipline. The RBI has done well to announce measures to boost liquidity. While it has taken a positive stance, it is also cautious. It says that "there are some emerging signs of weakness in a few leading indicators" and uncertainties on the external front. Goods exports declined in October because of the high tariff regime. The central bank has projected growth to soften to 7% in the third quarter and 6.5% in the fourth quarter. Considering the adverse factors, the target of 7.3% for the whole year may be challenging.

India's fire tragedies repeat because regulators refuse to learn

Monetary easing alone won't propel India's growth orbit

INDIGO'S 'ROGUE BEHAVIOUR'

Weak regulation and tainted capitalism

The IndiGo fiasco is not an aviation story, but a governance story of weak institutions

AJIT RANADE

When IndiGo cancelled thousands of flights this December, it was tempting to blame it all on one company's 'rogue behaviour'. Scratching the surface reveals a deeper malaise: a chronic weakening of India's regulatory institutions, and a form of tainted capitalism where dominant private players face little real accountability. The crisis was not an aberration; it was an inevitability.

India's regulators are meant to be quasi-judicial bodies — independent, evidence-driven, and powerful enough to discipline the biggest corporations. In principle, they play a role analogous to courts: interpreting rules, enforcing compliance, and protecting public interest. In practice, most regulators resemble departments inside ministries, staffed by junior officers who cannot stand up to billion-dollar incumbents.

Contrast this with the United States, where even a junior federal judge could issue adverse rulings against sitting President Donald Trump's whimsical tariffs. In India, the median regulatory staffer is neither empowered nor insulated. They are expected to regulate conglomerates whose influence networks reach deep within the government.

The result is predictable: regulatory hesitation, delayed enforcement, and a culture of looking away until a crisis becomes impossible to ignore.

Take the case of telecom, inching toward duopoly. Over the past two decades, spectrum auctions were repeatedly followed by post-hoc rule changes — in pricing, revenue sharing, adjusted gross revenue (AGR), and merger norms. Policy shifts came not through transparent processes, but through continuous fire-fighting and lobbying.

When rules are unstable, discretionary, and revisable under pressure, firms learn that the real game is not competition or efficiency, but regulatory capture.

The NITI Aayog-CRISIL report on airport public private partnerships shows the same tension. India needs ~\$50 billion in airport investment over the next decade. Yet foreign participation is declining, but because investors fear arbitrary regulation, delayed clearances, unpredictable tariffs, and lengthy disputes.

AERA, our regulator of airports, is theoretically an independent, quasi-judicial authority. But tariff-setting—its core mandate—has become a high-stakes litigation maze. Concession agreements

contain ambiguities, while operators deploy legal and political influence.

When regulators are weak, the operator becomes the real policymaker.

The IndiGo meltdown was not 'bad luck' or a 'perfect storm'. The roots go back to 2019, when the pilot union challenged exploitative rostering and fatigue norms in court. That legal battle eventually led to DGCA's stricter Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL). The irony is sharp: a labour union had to step in where the regulator failed. The corrective action came five years too late triggered a staffing crisis that IndiGo did not resolve proactively.

In aviation, safety decisions are



paramount. Yet IndiGo behaved as if compliance was optional. The DGCA learned of these lapses internally, but its junior staff either did not escalate or felt unable to push back. After all, how does a 28-year-old deputy director 'warn' India's largest airline?

This is a structural imbalance. When one company becomes too big to regulate, the public becomes hostage.

The IndiGo crisis also reveals something uncomfortable about India's political economy: labour cannot negotiate except through courts. Pilots could not achieve basic fatigue protections through bargaining. They needed a judicial intervention.

If this is the fate of pilots, imagine the condition of informal workers, gig workers, or teachers in private colleges.

In India's celebrated growth story, capital has become organised, concentrated, and politically entrenched; labour has become fragmented, precarious, and voiceless.

A society where only capital can speak is not merely unequal—it is unstable.

Another example of a quiet regulatory failure is in the higher education sector. India's education regulators — AICTE, UGC, state councils — have long been unable to discipline powerful private institutions. Excellence and fidelity to education goals is by exception, not the rule. Capitation fees, faculty shortages,

infrastructure violations, and quality lapses persist because regulators fear litigation, political backlash, or simply administrative overload.

The result is a parallel universe where rules exist but only for the weak. Big institutions innovate new ways to bypass norms, while smaller ones collapse.

There are far too many examples across sectors, of how regulators have the title of judges, but the autonomy of clerks.

India's development narrative often celebrates private enterprise, and rightly so. But when regulatory checks are weak, capitalism becomes tainted, especially aggravated by cronyism or monopolistic behaviour. What follows are discretionary concessions and selective enforcement, monopolistic dominance that stifles competition, or regulatory capture that substitutes private interest for public interest.

The IndiGo episode is an economic governance story. A system with a strong rule of law would have compelled airlines to disclose staffing adequacy months earlier, penalised schedule overextension, ensured transparent tariff and slot allocation, protected whistleblowers inside the DGCA, and, institutionalised class-action remedies for passengers.

Instead, passengers bore the costs, airlines deflected the blame, and regulators scrambled to respond after the damage was done.

India does not suffer from a lack of regulations. Strengthening the regulatory spine will need: (1) institutional autonomy with fixed tenures, independent budgets, non-transferable leadership, (2) professionalised cadre with domain specialists, (3) Legal empowerment that leads to swift penalties, binding directives, and statutory protection for staff acting in good faith. (4) Transparency and accountability by publishing all concessions and enforcing open consultations, (5) Preventing dominance in sectors like airlines, telecom, and digital markets.

IndiGo's meltdown, telecom's flip-flop policy history, the fragility of airport PPPs, the helplessness of education regulators — all point to one truth: India's regulatory state is not yet strong enough to discipline the giants it has created, nor can they rein in monopolies.

Until regulators regain independence, authority, and credibility, India will continue to oscillate between private excess and public helplessness. Rogue companies will be blamed, but the deeper fault will lie in a system where rules are flexible for the powerful and rigid for others.

Strengthening the rule of law is not anti-business. It is the only way to build a capitalism that is fair, stable, and genuinely democratic.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Majestic, but far from sublime

Bengaluru's iconic hub deserves a more fitting definition

S RADHA PRATHI

On one fine summer afternoon, I reached out for the newspaper on the coffee table as usual. I had already read that daily at length in the morning. After a cursory glance at the contents, I zeroed in on the crossword puzzle and started filling the grid slowly.

Most of the clues were plain sailing. However, I was stumped by a seven-letter word whose clue was 'majestic'. I wondered if the answer could be sublime. Somehow it did not feel right. So, I waded through the other clues, and the sixth letter showed itself to be "m".

When I worked out the other clues, the first letter revealed itself to be "s" and the last letter was "e". Though these pointers seemed to support my guess, I put down the answer hesitantly, folded

the paper and put it back.

It was time for me to run an important errand. I set out from home and hailed an auto rickshaw and sought to go to Majestic. The driver refused. So did two more. Their reasons were the same. "The roads will be clogged with traffic", "The road is riddled with potholes", and "Overflowing open drains on the way". However, some of them were ready to navigate through the maze if I could pay them a lofty sum. I resisted them for a while and finally got into one, as the rain clouds cast their dark shadows.

When we were closer to the bustermin, the skies opened, unleashing chaos. Street vendors, motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, dogs and a stray cow decided to take shelter under the over-bridge till the rains relented. The buses, lorries, cars and autos were bracketed out on either side under the downpour. Two-wheelers managed to wheedle through the narrow leeway. Amidst all the confusion, I could hear random voices of people speaking in multiple languages about the rains and how they were stranded in Majestic.

With the mention of Majestic, my thoughts meandered to the crossword clue. The maddening crowd and mayhem made me realise that I had hesitated subconsciously to put down "sublime" as the answer.

But then, the true blue Bengalurean in me would not let the matter go. The Majestic area as we know of it today was a sublime sylvan lake once upon a time. A cinema hall named Majestic, which was situated along the Tank Bund Road, lent its name to the area. The place must have been synonymous with Majestic all those decades ago. Gradually, the waters of the Dharmambudhi lake dried up. The lake bed was used to build a public bus depot. Soon enough a pulsating township mushroomed around the place. Overuse and abuse of the facility gave way to a squalid, unkempt and noisy atmosphere.

Renaming the area might save the word 'majestic' from being maligned, but helping the area to regain its regal status as an orderly, verdant hub will resuscitate the heart of Namma Bengaluru. We must work on the clue!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Impending political turmoil in Karnataka

From a strident insistence on continuing as chief minister, Siddaramaiah seems to have seen the writing on the wall and, for the first time, appears to have realised that a change of guard is inevitable. He has said, "Even a phone call from Rahul is enough." However, despite a luncheon meeting and breakfast with his deputy, Siddaramaiah, who held an elaborate meeting with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary K C Venugopal, has expressed that he has no desire to cling to power and is now believed to have backed Home Minister G Parameshwara, a Dalit, if the party desires to usher in new leadership. It is unclear what deep objections Siddaramaiah may have against Deputy CM D K Shivakumar to become the next CM. This development is bound to create political turmoil in Karnataka in the coming days.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

should introduce a buffer time and a manual override feature.

Tamanna Bhoumik, Bengaluru

India's stance is clear

India's relationship with Russia has withstood several political storms, and President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to India has reaffirmed this bond. Amid rising international tensions, India has demonstrated clarity in its choices, despite the double standards displayed by the

West. Criticising India for securing oil from Russia and imposing tariffs only serves to push India, Russia, and China closer in their economic and strategic alignment. Strengthening long-standing partnerships is essential for ensuring India's independence in global affairs.

Rachana Raghunandan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: letters@deccanherald.co.in (only letters emailed — not handwritten — will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Back then, the Muslim League and Muhammad Jinnah had a problem with Vande Mataram...Now, Jinnah's munna also has a problem with it...



Anurag Thakur, BJP MP

The present political chaos is connected with the decay of language.

George Orwell

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

COPs: Where does hope go from here?

Corporate accountability may hold the last credible lever for climate action

SAJAN P K

The high drama at COP30 had a disappointingly familiar denouement: an unpromising resolution that once again shied away from oil and gas. Had meaningful action followed COP28's call to transition away from fossil fuels, Belem would not have been all about them. COPs no longer inspire hope.

The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro laid the foundation for UNFCCC to help stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations before they ballooned into the existential threat they are today. The discussions based on intergenerational justice agreed that developmental goals of one generation should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Its humanitarian wisdom should have moderated extractive industries and petrostates. Instead, today's youth have been let down by the 'adults' in policymaking, prompting Greta Thunberg to ask why they should study for a future no one is willing to save.

Trade has long impaired the climate negotiations. Ironically, both the UNFCCC and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) came into being in 1994—pursuing parallel paths like estranged twins. Trade agreements became binding; climate commitments remained voluntary and unenforceable. Sustainable development was subordinated to the interests of capitalism, which drove government policy with scant regard for the ecological damage globalised trade leaves behind.

The *Stern Review* described climate change as the "widest-ranging market failure ever." A free-market economy driving trade through globalisation has reasons to resist decarbonisation. The fossil fuel industry's contribution to GDP gives it immense clout. Many other industries run on fossil fuels and resist anything that might undermine profitability. For energy transition to happen, governments must shoulder the initial costs and ensure localisation of resources to generate jobs and regional economic growth. But WTO rules disallow such regulations. This was evident in Ontario, Canada, which was compelled to dismantle its policy provisions protecting local suppliers and labour in its green energy plan—killing what could have been a pioneering model for decentralised energy transition.

The interpenetration of the fossil fuel industry and climate negotiations was stealthy until its stunning appearance in Dubai, where the chief of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company presided over COP28. It became fashionable to showcase renewable subsidiaries of oil giants as a commitment to transition while keeping their

core intact. A Brown University report released at COP30 details new obstruction tactics led by the fossil fuel lobby—framing climate risks as distant and exaggerated while overselling unproven technologies. It revealed that 25% of the COP30 participants were aligned with fossil fuel interests.

A distorted view of climate justice has also contributed to the COP impasses. Debated extensively since the Earth Summit, climate justice argues that the onus of reducing emissions cannot be shared equally by those who contributed to it the most and those who suffer the most. It is now interpreted differently: the developed world, having prospered through dirty energy, cannot imperil the developing nations' progress. Meant originally as a rationale for climate finance, it has been distorted. We are unable to see either the scientific limits of global emissions or the imperative of combining the energy needs of developing countries with the economic incentives of clean energy. The Global South, including India, argues for a continued licence to emit. Petrostates have appropriated this narrative, turning it into an emotive issue around the developmental aspirations of the developing nations. The idea of climate justice as energy transition financed by the developed nations for equity for the rest of the world stands inverted to mean the right of petrostates to expand their fossil fuel ambitions.

If COPs continue to fail, is there a way out? Where governments have made little headway, is there a business case for corporate climate action? It may sound counter-intuitive when fossil fuel giants contribute 75% of emissions (Scope 1). But the remaining 25%—Scope 2 (purchased electricity) and Scope 3 (supply chain and downstream use) emissions—offers hope. These represent major energy demands from other industries, many of which also make up the bulk of the energy demand of the fossil fuel industry but have committed to carbon neutrality by 2050. If they honour this commitment and remain open to public scrutiny, it could be transformative.

It makes business sense. Corporate finances are already hit by heat stress on data centres, rising capital costs, and frequent supply chain disruptions. A World Economic Forum report estimates climate-related losses since 2000 at \$3.6 trillion. A climate-secure future is essential for the survival of businesses, besides opening new opportunities through green transition. Consumers, governments, and civil society will all need to ensure corporate accountability in decarbonisation. Having exhausted all our energy on the elusive COP promise, this pathway is worth engaging.

(The writer is an associate professor of practice at the Indian Institute of Management, Both Gaya, and is pursuing research at St Joseph's University, Bengaluru)

IndiGo’s ‘pressure tactics’ shake India’s aviation credibility

MARK D MARTIN

Never in India’s aviation history has an airline held passengers hostage and threatened to compromise India’s air safety credibility, as seen in the ongoing chaos involving IndiGo, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and India’s travelling public.

As someone closely following the aviation sector, it was clear that the airline was not in favour of the DGCA’s revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) in 2023; especially two key clauses: the mandatory crew rest of two days a week, and limitations on non-stop consecutive night flights.

Safety limits restrict overworking of crew and limit crew fatigue, which had some clear objectives—to improve safety, crew alertness, better cockpit decision making, and improved flight operations performance.

According to our analysis, owing to the grounding of its Pratt & Whitney-affected fleet, average fleet utilisation increased

from 13 hours per aircraft to 15.5 hours on the A320 fleet. That indicates that the existing pilot pool was already being stretched to its limits.

Industry sources, which this author spoke to, confirmed that there was a hiring freeze by the airline, and if any new hires happened, it would be from existing cadet pilot programmes. If the DGCA’s FDTL regulation had been implemented, IndiGo would have needed to induct ~974 pilots (commanders and co-pilots), provide for additional reservations for hotel bookings, crew transport, and crew rest areas. Our estimates are that additional simulator checks and recurrent costs would have pushed up costs by at least 60%.

What makes its current actions appear like a ‘pressure tactic’ on the DGCA? IndiGo continues its on-time schedule with its international flights, international flight connections, and international routings. The mass cancellations and disruptions were in the domestic sector. Why is this the case?

One also understands that the FDTL regulations will affect the airline’s flight deck crew, but, the DGCA stays far away from airport staff and cabin crew. If IndiGo was really the victim in all of this, it could have deployed all its off-roster cabin crew and airport staff to support and facilitate stranded passengers while making amends. Sorrowfully, IndiGo passengers were left waiting for hours without proper information, or being able to recover their luggage, with very little, if no, help in sight.

The current standoff boiled down to who blinked first, and frankly, none of us saw it coming when the DGCA, one of the most rigid, ruthless aviation safety enforcement and regulators, blinked. This, after the revised FDTL regulation was implemented by Air India, Akasa, and SpiceJet, by October.

The DGCA does make provisions for regulations that pertain to airworthiness for a limited time or flight hours, but never has

a safety-centred regulation been retracted at the behest of pressure from an airline.

The DGCA’s retraction of its FDTL regulation is not an act to support the industry. Around the world, safety regulations are cast in stone, and can’t be bent or stretched. That’s because crew and passenger safety is sacred.

Managing airline staff fatigue has been under severe scrutiny after an IndiGo pilot collapsed and died in Nagpur shortly before he was to fly in October 2023. Given this, for the DGCA to go back on its stance sends the wrong message that air safety regulations in India are bendable, and can be distorted to suit the industry.

By going back on its safety regulations, even though it is an extension, the DGCA stands to risk unwarranted downgrades, disrespect, and prejudice from influential global aviation regulators such as the ICAO, the EASA, and the FAA.

Crew fatigue, overworking pilots, and not providing adequate rest collocated with

lowering safety standards centred as the core of the new FDTL regulation. IndiGo’s answer to the DGCA’s diktat appears to focus on the airline not being willing to spend more money on crew.

IndiGo, which is the current leader of India’s domestic aviation sector, should have shown leadership and maturity by complying with the regulation and not being at loggerheads with the DGCA. In the DGCA’s temporary retraction of its FDTL regulation and the continuing airport chaos and uncertainty, IndiGo doesn’t win. On the contrary, it loses credibility, trust, and integrity, and will be perceived as unethical.

The deeper and broader impact of IndiGo’s rebuttal to safety regulations is the message that the airline is willing to compromise safety for profits. This could have a ripple effect with shareholders, banks, aircraft lessors, Airbus, ATR, and practically all OEMs and vendors connected with the airline.

The DGCA has issued a show-cause notice to IndiGo’s CEO demanding an

explanation on the non-compliance with regulations. In the coming weeks and months, public distrust towards IndiGo is likely to grow, while Air India and Akasa are expected to increase flights, fly to more destinations, and enhance capacity — developments that could significantly drop IndiGo’s passenger loads.

As someone with over three decades of experience in the aviation sector and having been closely involved in the operations of five airlines, I am agast at the stunt pulled off by the airline I once held in high esteem for its efficiency and smooth systems, now seemingly caught in an identity crisis. I often brushed aside the occasional jibes from politicians who claimed IndiGo’s market was too large and powerful, insisting that something had to be done to reduce its share. Ironically, it appears that IndiGo has done this already.

(The writer is a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society and founder and CEO of an aviation safety firm)

The US President is shifting from discussion of the long-lasting competition among the world’s biggest economies and nuclear powers

DAVID E SANGER

The last time President Donald Trump issued a national security strategy, eight years ago, it heralded a return to superpower competition, describing China and Russia as “revisionist” powers seeking to upend US dominance around the world.

“China and Russia challenge American power, influence and interests, attempting to erode American security and prosperity,” he wrote in a document that reflected the influence of his advisers in his first term. “They are determined to make economies less free and less fair, to grow their militaries, and to control information and data to repress their societies and expand their influence.”

Eight years later, that diagnosis seems truer than ever. The two US rivals have deepened, and occasionally exaggerated, their “partnership without limits.” China’s nuclear force has more than doubled since the 2017 strategy was published; its military runs exercises encircling Taiwan; and its cyber attackers have drilled into American telecommunications, corporate and government infrastructure.

Russia has engaged in a nearly four-year-long war in Ukraine and a shadow war against US allies across Europe.

Yet a reader of Trump’s 2025 strategy would barely know any of that. While the headlines have focused on how European allies must end mass migration and elect “patriotic” parties or face “civilisational erasure,” what is most striking about the 33-page document is what it ignores.

Russia is mentioned in only four paragraphs, and never in tones of condemnation for its invasion of a neighbouring state, leading to a war that has produced more than 1.5 million casualties. Instead, it portrays the United States as something of a neutral negotiator that can diminish tensions between Russia and Europe and “re-establish strategic stability” with Moscow.

And there is virtually no discussion of the daily battle in cyberspace against China’s State-sponsored hackers, after the administration warned last week of another deep penetration of American corporate and government computer networks.

But those are hardly the only direct threats to the United States that seem odd by their omission. In 2017, Trump was threatening “fire and fury” against North Korea, which at the time had one to two dozen nuclear weapons. The 2017 strategy notes that the country “seeks the capability to kill millions of Americans with nuclear weapons,” and delves into its chemical, biological and cyber capability. Today, after years of failed diplomacy, North Korea has 60 or more nuclear weapons.

Yet the country is never mentioned in the new strategy. Iran is barely mentioned, and then in contradictory terms. Trump’s introduction boasts that in June, “we obliterated Iran’s nuclear enrichment capacity.” Then, on the report’s penultimate page, a more careful assessment says that the US “significantly degraded Iran’s nuclear programme.”

“The document is silent on how the administration is going to prevent Iran from reconstituting its degraded programme,” Scott D Sagan, a Stanford University professor who writes extensively on nuclear strategy, noted Saturday.

No strategy can deal with every threat posed to the US, of course, and those that try to often read more like a laundry list of



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Superpower competition: Trump’s missed a page

challenges. The new report says in its opening paragraphs that it is focused on just a few major national security threats, and that the goal is “to ensure that America remains the world’s strongest, richest, most powerful and most successful country for decades to come.”

“Not every country, region, issue or cause — however worthy — can be the focus of American strategy,” the document says. It then goes on to put the first priority on the Western Hemisphere. Most of that involves updating the Monroe Doctrine — which declared the Americas and their surrounding waters as Washington’s sphere of dominance — with a “Trump corollary.” Not surprisingly, it focuses on limiting migration and drugs.

Still, the move away from discussion of the immediate and long-lasting competition among the world’s two largest economies and three largest nuclear powers is jarring.

There is no discussion of superpower struggle or strategies of containment. The document argues for a quick end to the Ukraine war, on terms that would preserve a Ukrainian state, as a way of achieving that ill-defined “strategic stability” between the United States and Russia. And even though more pages of the document are focused on China than on any other nation, it dwells far more on the commercial relations than the strategic competition.

China’s nuclear expansion, which has fixated the Pentagon and strategic planners for years, gets only glancing mention, and there is barely a mention of the remarkably sophisticated, extensive cyberattacks that

have burrowed deeply into US telecommunications and utility systems and stayed there, despite years of efforts to oust them.

“The section on Asia is striking,” said Peter D Feaver, a professor at Duke University who runs its American Grand Strategy programme. “When discussing economic competition, China is mentioned explicitly and in granular detail. But when discussing military threats in the Indo-Pacific, the language becomes very vague.”

He added: “Unlike Trump’s first security strategy, China is not identified by name as a country that poses a military threat, which may be the loudest omission in the entire document.”

Yet it is not the only arena in which the competition with China is soft-pedalled, at least in comparison to Trump’s first strategy and the one that followed from the Biden administration.

“Think about the list of challenges where China presents the greatest threat to the US in the next few decades,” said R. Nicholas Burns, who served as ambassador to China until January and, as a career foreign service officer, ambassador to NATO. “It’s who will emerge most powerful in technology — AI, quantum computing, biotechnology, cyber. They are linked to the intense military competition we have with China every day throughout the Indo-Pacific.”

They are mentioned only in passing, Burns noted. “Nor is there mention of the fact that the EU and NATO countries have been critical partners with us in sanctioning Beijing for its support for Russia in Ukraine,

on Taiwan and on human rights — on our side of the strategic competition,” he added. “In fact, strangely and falsely, there is more condemnation in the report of our European allies than our adversaries China and Russia.”

In fact, Russia is not condemned for its invasion of Ukraine, or the evidence that Putin was considering the use of tactical nuclear weapons inside the country, most dramatically during a crisis in October 2022.

While the last major nuclear arms control treaty with Russia, New START, expires in two months, there is no discussion of avoiding a renewed, expensive and destabilizing arms race. Instead, the strategy extols missile defences, “including a Golden Dome for the American homeland,” a project Trump announced within months of taking office.

But while billions of dollars are being spent on the project already, there is no mention in the strategy of the fact that one of its key elements — placing missile interceptors in space — could prompt a race among the superpowers to place nuclear weapons into orbit as well.

It is unclear why the administration turned sharply away from the discussion of superpower competition that it began in 2017. Partly it may be personalities. The national security adviser who oversaw the drafting of the 2017 document, Lt Gen H R McMaster, believed the US defence establishment was moving far too slowly in confronting new realities after nearly two decades of focus on counterterrorism.

The New York Times

Men’s mental health crisis in India

JOHN J KENNEDY

A disturbing truth is finally surfacing: men in India are dying at alarming rates, and we are not talking about it with the seriousness it deserves. A recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report revealed that in Karnataka alone, 29 men die by suicide every day. Between 2018 and 2023, the state recorded 63,539 suicides, over three-fourths of them men. In 2023, of 13,330 suicides, 10,232 were men. Rural men are dying at even higher rates, making this not only a personal tragedy but also a social and structural crisis.

The reasons are varied but clustered under the deceptively plain term ‘family problems’: debt, illness, substance abuse, infertility, extramarital affairs, and domestic conflict. In a society where family honour carries enormous weight, men are expected to provide, endure, and stay silent. When relationships fail or finances collapse, the pressure becomes suffocating. Women may have culturally permissible ways to seek support; men often do not. Vulnerability often becomes a liability. Help-seeking becomes a risk.

The case of Bengaluru techie Atul, who ended his life last December, laid bare this silence. His detailed note, describing alleged mistreatment in his marital relationship, shook many precisely because such stories rarely come out. Men hesitate to speak of emotional abuse for fear of ridicule or disbelief, though family courts hear numerous petitions citing mental cruelty. This is not to deny violence against women but to acknowledge that patriarchal expectations harm men too. Misuse of legal protections (something even the Supreme Court has flagged), false accusations, extended litigation, and social shaming can deepen emotional distress. The challenge is gender justice without gender stereotypes.

This crisis is stark in rural India. In 2023, 4,553 of 4,690 farmers who died by suicide were men. Among farm labourers, 5,433 out of 6,096 men died not just because of debt and crop failure but because of cultural expectations that they shoulder economic responsibility without complaint. In rural areas, isolation, weak support systems, and stigma can quickly turn financial problems into emotional breakdowns.

Research confirms how these pressures accumulate. Childhood trauma, unmet emotional needs, and mental illness strongly predict suicidal behaviour. In the absence of early in-

tervention, emotional literacy, or access to care, these wounds harden into lifelong silence.

Unfortunately, India’s mental health infrastructure does little to break this silence. Helplines like Tele MANAS exist, but access is uneven, and gender-sensitive support is almost nonexistent. The stigma is so strongly ingrained that even as men make up nearly 70% of suicide victims in India, only a minuscule number seek professional help. Therapy is perceived as weakness; breakdowns as personal failure. Even in public discourse, stereotypes persist. When a tragedy occurs, the temptation is to generalise, as in actress Kangana Ranaut’s remark that men are usually at fault, instead of listening to individuals dispassionately. It is telling that it took a Kerala High Court judge to remind us that men, too, possess dignity and honour; and that dismissing their suffering is neither fair nor humane.

So, if we truly care about gender equality, we must also care about men’s mental health. Awareness alone may not solve the problem. Real change is needed in families, communities, institutions, and policy. Firstly, families should learn to normalise men expressing emotions. Schools and workplaces must impart emotional skills and help students challenge the idea that masculinity means silence. Communities must promote men’s circles, peer groups, and counselling networks. These are safe spaces where men can speak without judgment. Trained counsellors who understand the cultural pressures on men are needed to reach out to rural men, labourers, students, fathers, and husbands. Lastly and importantly, our economic policy must address the chronic debt and insecurity that make rural male suicides so prevalent, with legal systems ensuring fairness so that neither women’s safety nor men’s dignity is compromised.

Above all, as a society, we must learn to listen instead of waiting till men reach a breaking point. We must learn to view their emotional pain seriously. Pain in men is not an anomaly but a fundamental human experience. We need to understand that the tragedies unfolding across Karnataka and the country are not just personal losses. On the contrary, they are a collective indictment of how we construct manhood, how we distribute social burdens, and how often we fail to offer compassion where it is most needed.

(The writer is a former professor and dean at Christ University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

Press immunity for House coverage goes

New Delhi, Dec. 8
The Government today armed itself with special powers to prevent Publication of “objectionable matter,” including from proceedings of Parliament, and also resolved to scrap the Press Council. Three ordinances were promulgated to prohibit publication of objectionable matter with immediate effect, to withdraw immediately the immunity conferred on the press by the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act of 1956, and to repeal the Press Council Act of 1965.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

Datta Jayanthi celebrations begin amid tight security

Bababadangiri, Dec 8
The three-day Datta Jayanthi celebrations began at the Guru Dattatreya Bababudan Darga’s historical Datta Peeta here today amidst tight security. The holy paduka (footwear) and the Nandadeepa (lamp) which are believed to have been used by Guru Dattatreya were on display for pooja and the holy tunnel near the sacred Datta Peeta was kept open for darshan by devotees. The tunnel, termed a “symbol of Hindu-Muslim amity” is revered by both since it is believed that it leads to both Kashi and Mecca.

Life teaches us many lessons both at home and at work. One key lesson is mastering the art of maintaining our inner balance. Whether we are with family, friends, colleagues, or facing unexpected situations, there will always be moments that test our patience and emotional stability. True strength lies in staying centred and unperturbed, even when the outside world is noisy, demanding, and unpredictable. In our daily lives, we encounter people whose moods or behaviours can easily disturb us. Whether it’s an unexpected comment, demeaning words, two-faced talk, or emotional outbursts, it’s easy for us to be pulled in. But experience teaches us a beautiful truth: not everything

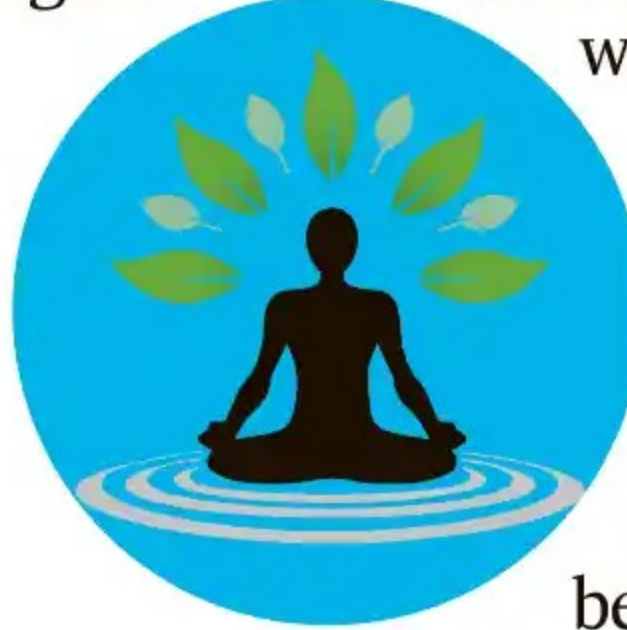
requires our response, and not everyone deserves access to our emotional space. Most of the time, work, of course, presents a different kind of test.

There are days when colleagues provoke you, sometimes intentionally, sometimes unknowingly. People may try to manipulate situations, twist narratives, or press buttons to cause reactions. Sometimes someone may take credit for your work, make subtle remarks, or create unnecessary drama. It is easy to get caught in that emotional quicksand. Maintaining our inner balance and responding thoughtfully instead of

emotionally is the discipline we need. To develop inner balance, cultivate mindful practices such as meditation, prayer, or journaling to foster self-reflection and peace. Connect with nature, express gratitude, nurture positive relationships, and engage in activities like volunteering that give you a sense of purpose and meaning.

As Rumi said, “The soul has been given ears to hear things the mind does not understand.” This is where inner balance becomes spiritual, allowing us to operate from a space deeper than thought and beyond immediate reactions. We must

recognise that people act based on their own experiences and inner struggles, but these should not influence how we respond. When we stop taking things personally, we attain a sense of freedom. In both personal and professional life, this inner balance becomes our quiet radiance. We learn to stay steady, peaceful, and centred. This calmness becomes a light that others notice and respect. Inner balance is not just a practice; it is a path we choose in our daily journey. When we choose inner balance, we opt for peace rather than reaction, clarity rather than confusion, and presence rather than impulse. Walking this path ensures that nothing can diminish the light within.



Graft case: ED files chargesheet against AAP's Satyendar Jain

NEW DELHI, PTI: The ED has filed a chargesheet against former Delhi minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain, three ex-Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials and some others in a case related to alleged corruption in awarding tenders for sewage treatment plants in 2022, the agency said on Monday.

The prosecution complaint has been filed before a Delhi court on December 6. The Enforcement Directorate has sought prosecution of the 14 accused entities under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), an official told PTI.

Those named as accused in the chargesheet include Jain (61), former DJB CEO Udit Prakash Rai, ex-DJB member Ajay Gupta, former DJB chief engineer Satish Chandra Vashishth, private persons like Vinod Chauhan and Nagendra Yadav, Hyderabad-based company Euroteck Environmental Pvt Ltd., its MD Raja Kumar Kurra, and some others, the agency said in a statement.

Jain was the DJB chairman and Delhi water minister when the tenders valued at Rs 1,943 crore were awarded to various joint venture entities in October 2022, which in-turn, subcontracted the work to the Hyderabad firm.

HC bins plea seeking strict law on insult to Hindu Gods

LUCKNOW, PTI: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court has said that there are already laws to check incidents of insult to Hindu deities and religious books, but if the petitioner wants more stringent and more effective laws, it may approach the central and state governments.

A bench of Justice Rajan Roy and Justice Indrajit Shukla said this on Friday (December 5) while disposing of the PIL filed by Hindu Front for Justice.

The petitioner's counsel, Ranjana Agnihotri, had argued that incidents of disrespect to Hindu deities occur frequently. She stated that there are no laws to prevent these incidents, though she also acknowledged that some laws already exist to curb such occurrences.

IndiGo axes about 500 flights on Monday amid service turmoil

NEW DELHI, DHNS: IndiGo did not operate around 500 flights on Monday, even as its services slowly returned to normal.

Meanwhile, the Union Civil Aviation Ministry said the beleaguered airline had cancelled close to 5.87 lakh PNRs (Passenger Name Records) between December 1 and 7 and refunded Rs 569.65 crore. In some cases, multiple people were travelling on one ticket.

So far, the ministry said, the airline had delivered 4,500 bags to customers out of a total of 9,000. The target was to return the remainder within the next 36 hours.

According to the ministry,

Oppn to seek impeachment of Madras High Court judge

Justice Swaminathan targeted over Karthigai Deepam row

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

MPs belonging to the I.N.D.I.A bloc are likely to submit an impeachment notice against Justice G R Swaminathan of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court for his judgment that Karthigai Deepam should be lit atop the Thiruparankundram hills near a dargah.

The hill houses three religious structures — the Subramaniya Swamy temple, Kasi Viswanathan temple, and the Sikkander Badusha dargah.

“MPs from TN and elsewhere have signed the peti-

tion,” a source told *DH*, adding that they had already received the support of the 100 MPs required to move the petition.

The petition, being piloted by the DMK, is likely to be supported by a majority of I.N.D.I.A-bloc partners, the source added.

DMK MPs reached out to all Parliament members from the Opposition bloc and are confident that all parties will support their initiative in the Lok Sabha.

“The signatures are being collected. We will be able to tell the number of MPs supporting the petition only on Tuesday morning. But we already have

CONTROVERSIAL VERDICT

- His judgment that Karthigai Deepam should be lit atop the Thiruparankundram hills near a dargah triggered a row.
- The state government received the support of the 100 MPs required to move the petition.
- If the impeachment petition is accepted, a three-member committee will be constituted to investigate the matter.
- Opposition has been targeting Justice Swaminathan for some time now, pointing to a few of his judgments.

100 signatures,” said another source.

Justice Swaminathan, on December 1, ordered that Karthigai Deepam must be lit on the Deepathoon atop the hills near the dargah instead of the Deepa Mandapam near the Uchipillaiyar temple, where the lamp had been lit for over a century.

However, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department (HR & CE) Department officials lit the fire at the Uchipillaiyar temple at 6

pm on December 3 as per the tradition, inviting contempt proceedings.

Justice Swaminathan not only pulled up the DMK dispensation for breaching his order but also asked CISF personnel guarding the high court premises to accompany the petitioner with 10 people to the hills to help light the lamp.

However, the lamp could not be lit as per the court directions, with the Tamil Nadu government not permitting

the move, citing law-and-order problems.

The state government has also moved the Supreme Court against Justice Swaminathan's order, which was upheld by a two-member bench on December 4.

Other issues

Opposition parties have been targeting Justice Swaminathan for some time now, pointing to a few of his judgments. The judge was also criticised for initiating contempt proceedings against YouTuber Savukku Shankar and advocate Vanchinathan in the past three years.

If the impeachment petition is accepted, a three-member committee will be constituted to investigate the matter.

Following the investigation, both Houses of Parliament must pass the motion by a special majority. It may be noted that no judge has been successfully impeached in India so far.

CASE THAT SHOOK KERALA

2017

- Feb 17: Popular actor abducted and raped inside a moving car in Kochi
- Feb 18: Complaint filed
- Feb 19: Actor Manju Warrier, Dileep's ex-wife, alleges larger conspiracy; Dileep counters, calling it fabricated stories
- Feb 23: Prime accused Sunil alias Pulsar Suni held from courtroom while attempting to surrender
- Jun 28: Dileep questioned by police
- Jul 10: Dileep arrested
- Oct 3: Kerala High Court grants Dileep bail
- Nov 22: Chargesheet filed against Dileep

2018-25

- Mar 8, 2018: Trial begins
- Dec 25, 2021: Filmmaker Balachandra Kumar alleges Dileep's link with accused; claims he possessed copy of rape video
- Jan 4, 2022: Court permits further probe into Dileep's role
- Jan 9, 2022: Fresh case filed against Dileep for alleged conspiracy to murder investigating police officials, including DySP Baiju Paulose
- Dec 7, 2023: High Court orders probe into unauthorised access of memory card containing rape video
- Dec 11, 2024: Final trial begins
- Nov 25, 2025: Court posts case for verdict on Dec 8



Dileep's acquittal splits Malayalam film industry

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

FOR & AGAINST

- Dileep cleared of conspiracy charges in 2017 abduction and rape of actor
- Members of women's collective express disappointment
- Verdict not final, says ex-IPS officer
- Lawyer calls case 'built on false evidence'
- Dileep hints at taking legal action against ex-wife Manju Warrier

The acquittal of actor Dileep on conspiracy charges in the 2017 abduction and rape of an actor has sparked widespread resentment. The Malayalam film industry remains sharply divided, with many expressing solidarity with the survivor and others hailing the verdict.

In a social media statement, the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) said, "Let the law take its course. AMMA respects the court."

Meanwhile, members of the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), which was formed in the aftermath of the sexual assault on the actor, took to social media to extend moral support to the survivor.

WCC members Beena Paul and Bhagyalekshmi were among those who openly voiced their displeasure over Dileep's acquittal. "The verdict is disappointing. But the only relief is that the issues faced by women in the film industry could be exposed because the survivor chose to raise her voice," said film editor Beena Paul.

Producer Suresh Kumar welcomed the verdict, saying that he was happy with Dileep's acquittal as there had been an attempt to falsely implicate him in the case.

Former Director General of Prosecution Asif Ali noted the challenges of securing direct evidence in conspiracy cases. He said that in this instance, digital evidence established links between Dileep and the prime accused, Sunil alias Pulsar Suni, and that

Dileep's animosity towards the survivor could have proven intent.

Retired IPS officer B Sandhya, who initially led the investigation, said the verdict could not be considered final as it can be appealed in the higher courts. She said the trial faced several challenges and that proving conspiracy is always a tough task.

Dileep's lawyer B Raman Pillai said that in his professional career, he had never encountered a case built on such false evidence.

Ex-wife's charges

In his initial reaction to the acquittal, Dileep, who is the eighth accused in the case, blamed his former wife and actor Manju Warrier, fuelling speculation that he may initiate legal action against her and others. Dileep alleged that it was following Manju's statement — suggesting a criminal conspiracy in the case — that a group of "criminal police personnel", along with a senior officer, conspired to fabricate stories against him.

Director faces misconduct petition

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A woman film personality in Kerala has filed a petition against a film director alleging misconduct. The Thiruvananthapuram will register a case and launch an investigation.

According to police sources, the complainant alleged that the director misbehaved with her and insulted her womanhood during a film screening at a city hotel, held as part of the selection process for the upcoming

International Film Festival of Kerala.

The petition was submitted to the chief minister, whose office forwarded it to the police for necessary action.

Police are learnt to have carried out a preliminary inquiry and decided to register a case for detailed investigation.

The matter surfaced on the same day that Dileep was acquitted of conspiracy charges in the abduction and sexual assault of an actor in 2017.

'Profusely apologetic': IndiGo seeks more time to respond to DGCA notices

Cites technical glitches, new duty norms for flight disruptions

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

IndiGo on Monday sought more time from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to respond to its show-cause notices to top officials on disruption in its services, claiming that it is "realistically not possible to pinpoint the exact cause(s)" within a short span of time even as it was 'profusely apologetic' about the hardship caused to passengers.

The civil aviation regulator had on Saturday issued notices to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and Chief Operating Office Isidre Porqueras on the massive cancellation of flights owing to the implementation of new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms.

The initial response signed by both the CEO and COO



A Buddhist nun holds prayer beads as she sits in the waiting area after her IndiGo flight was delayed, at Terminal 1 of Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. REUTERS

were submitted to the DGCA on Monday evening, after a 24-hour extension to reply.

A DGCA statement said IndiGo was 'profusely apologetic' and 'deeply regrets' the inconvenience and hardship caused to customers while attributing the disruption to the 'compounding effect of multiple factors', which operated in an 'unfortunate and unforeseeable confluence'.

The airline has sought more time for reply in detail saying it is "realistically not possible to pinpoint the exact cause(s)" at this time due to the complexity and vast scale of operations.

They said the DGCA's man-

ual allows a 15-day response timeline for show-cause notices, suggesting more time is needed to conduct a comprehensive 'Root Cause Analysis' (RCA).

On the 'preliminary contributing factors', the DGCA said the airline suggested that the disruption resulted from a combination of the following factors, which coincided in lesser or greater measure.

It includes "minor technical glitches, schedule changes linked to the start of the winter season, adverse weather conditions, increased congestion in the aviation system and implementation of and operation

under the updated crew rostering rules".

IndiGo also said they had been "engaging with the DGCA regarding challenges in implementing the Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) Phase II and were seeking variations, exemptions, or extensions."

"The disruptions began in early December when the compounding factors resulted in a lower On-Time Network Performance, which affected crew availability," it said.

The airline also said it took the 'drastic measure' of 'rebooting' the network by taking a significant number of cancellations to recover stranded customers, ease airport congestion, and reposition crew/aircraft. "This allowed services to progressively restore and normalise from December 6," the airline said.

IndiGo also claimed they have provided timely notifications and facilities — meals and refreshments, hotels and local transport. Substantial refunds have been processed for most affected customers. DGCA said it is in the process of examination the response and enforcement action as deemed appropriate will be taken.

Poor planning, not govt policy, at fault: Naidu

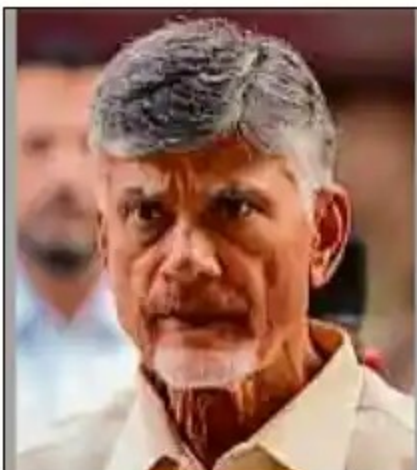
HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday attributed IndiGo's nationwide flight disruption to poor crew roster management and inadequate staffing, rather than to any government policy.

Speaking to reporters in Amaravati, the TDP leader said the crisis stemmed from IndiGo's failure to effectively comply with the Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms.

"FDTL rules are very clear. They set limits on flying hours, rest periods and working conditions for pilots and crew. Pilots cannot exceed prescribed duty hours, and rest periods

are mandatory to ensure safe operations," Naidu said.

Responding to a query, Naidu pointed out that as



Chandrababu Naidu

a low-cost carrier, IndiGo did not recruit sufficient staff in recent years, relying instead on tight scheduling to maximise efficiency. Once the new duty-time norms were enforced, the airline struggled to adjust its operations.

"With the implementation of FDTL guidelines, IndiGo was compelled to comply, resulting in flight disruptions that caused severe inconve-

nience to passengers across the country. But the mistake lay in IndiGo's poor crew planning," Naidu said.

He added that the Centre has since intervened and granted temporary relaxation in certain FDTL conditions, paving the way for operations to stabilise.

His remarks come amid widespread criticism and speculation linking the crisis to government oversight. Naidu dismissed those claims as politically motivated.

Naidu's comments gain significance as Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu belongs to the TDP, a key partner in the NDA coalition government at the Centre.

Cong suspends Sidhu's wife after 'Rs 500 cr' remark

CHANDIGARH, PTI: The Punjab Congress on Monday evening suspended Navjot Kaur Sidhu from its primary membership after she sparked a political row with her "Rs 500 crore for chief minister's chair" remark.

Reacting to her suspension, Kaur launched an offensive against Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, alleging, "I refuse to stand with an insensitive and irresponsible, morally dishonest and corrupt president."

Navjot Kaur is the wife of former Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu.

"Dr Navjot Kaur Sidhu is hereby suspended from the primary membership of the party with immediate effect," said Warring in an order.

Navjot Kaur has caused a political furor, claiming "one



Navjot Singh Sidhu with his wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu.

who gives a suitcase of Rs 500 crore becomes the CM".

Speaking to reporters on Saturday evening, Navjot Kaur said her husband will return to active politics if the Congress declares him as the party's chief ministerial face in Punjab. She further said they do not have money to give to any party but can transform Punjab into a "golden state".

"We always speak for Pun-

jab and Punjabiyat... but do not have Rs 500 crore which we can give to sit in chief minister's chair," she told reporters on Saturday after meeting Governor Gulab Chand Kataria on issues, including alleged deteriorating law and order in the state.

Asked if anybody demanded money from them, she said nobody has demanded but the "one who gives a suitcase of Rs 500 crore, he becomes the CM". However, after a political row erupted over her remarks, Navjot Kaur claimed her straight comment was given in a twist.

Following her statement, the BJP and AAP claimed that her comments exposed the "ugly truth" of how the grand old party functions, and the "money bag politics" it indulges in.

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana have changed the time window to put their fields on fire in order to escape detection by satellites that keep a close watch on stubble burning, according to a report released on Monday.

The time shifting began in Punjab after stubble burning reached its peak in 2021 and over 90% of large fires in the last two years happened after 3 pm. In neighbouring Haryana, a similar trend has been seen since 2019, says the report by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology.

This is the second report that came up with a similar conclusion in the last two weeks after



scientists from ISRO's Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, showed "a gradual shift in peak fire activity from 13:30 IST in 2020 to 17:00 IST in 2024, to avoid detection by polar-orbiting satellites."

While official government data suggests a dramatic 90% decline in farm fires in Punjab and Haryana, the iFOREST report shows the reduction is

EVASIVE MANOEUVRE

- Official mechanism run by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute relies on two sensors in three NASA polar satellites that pass over India between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm
- However, over 90% of large fires in Punjab and Haryana now occur after 3 pm
- In 2020, fires typically ignited around noon, peaked near 13:30 IST, and subsided by 15:30 IST, giving enough time to the satellites to pick up the signals

largely due to the limitations in the current monitoring system that fails to capture the actual fire count.

The official fire counting mechanism run by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute relies on two sensors in three NASA polar satellites that pass over India between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm.

"Satellite data we used show that the majority of large farm fires now occur after 3 pm, beyond the overpass times of polar satellites. More than 90% of large farm fires in Punjab in 2024 and 2025 occurred after 3 pm. In 2021, only 3% of large fires occurred after this time," said Chandra Bhushan, Chief Executive Officer of iFOREST.

Over the years, there has been 35-25% reduction of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, which can be estimated from burnt area mapping.

The decrease, however, is not commensurate with the official data that presents a wrong picture because of inaccurate fire count figures.

"The Decision Support System for air-quality management in Delhi, run by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, should revise its methodology to more accurately quantify the contribution of stubble burning to air-pollution loads in Delhi-NCR," Bhushan said, adding that the IARI should begin monitoring burnt-area data to provide a comprehensive and accurate picture of stubble burning across India.

In Manipur peace push, Meitei legislator travels to Kuki villages

'Uninformed' visit meets cold reception at relief camp

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

In what came as a silver lining in conflict-torn Manipur, a senior Meitei MLA on Monday travelled to two Kuki villages in Naga-dominated districts with a message of peace and reconciliation. Yumnam Khemchand Singh, former rural development minister and Speaker of the Manipur Assembly, first visited Litan, a Kuki hamlet in Ukhrul district bordering Myanmar. He interacted with villagers and inquired about their condition and the hardships they faced over the past two and a half years. He later travelled to Chassad, another Kuki village in Kamjong, also a

OUTREACH BID

■ Meitei MLA interacts with residents in Litan (Ukhrul) and Chassad (Kamjong)

■ Visit comes against the backdrop of Centre's efforts to build confidence and seek reconciliation

■ Manipur has been under President's Rule since February

Naga-dominated district. Manipur has remained embroiled in conflict since May 2023, resulting in the deaths of over 260 people and the displacement of over 60,000, both in the Meitei-dominated Valley and the Kuki-dominated hill districts. Khemchand's visit comes at a time when the government is seeking to find a resolution through dialogue. Manipur has remained under President's Rule since February this year. Although there was no of-

ficial reaction from the Lok Bhavan in Imphal, sources said Khemchand's visit was part of the Centre's efforts to restore confidence between the two communities and thereby work towards peace. "There are conflicts among different countries and among different communities across the world. But we should learn to live in harmony despite existing differences. We should not allow this conflict to affect the future of our children," Yumnam said.

The Valley and the Kuki-dominated hills have remained divided since the conflict began, with people from both sides avoiding visits to each other's areas out of fear of renewed violence. Later, reacting to Yumnam's visit, the Litan Sareikhang relief camp issued a statement saying the Meitei MLA had come when the elders were away at work and only women and children were present. It said it did not welcome such an "uninformed" visit.

Rs 1.3 cr raised for Babri-style mosque in West Bengal

BAHARAMPUR, PTI: Donations amounting to more than Rs 1.30 crore have been collected so far for the proposed Babri Masjid-style mosque announced by suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, leaders close to the legislator claimed on Monday. According to them, Rs 37.33 lakh in cash has been counted from four donation boxes and one sack, while online contributions via QR codes have reached Rs 93 lakh. They said seven more sealed donation boxes are yet to be opened. Kabir laid the foundation stone of the mosque at Rejinagar in Murshidabad on Saturday amid unprecedented security, deliberately choosing December 6, the anniversary of the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, a move that injected fresh political heat into an already polarised poll-bound Bengal. A former Congress MLA who later joined the Trinamool Congress in 2012, briefly crossed over to the BJP and then returned to the ruling party in 2020. Kabir has built a reputation for political turbulence and theatrics, with his suspension. The event drew tens of thousands of people and was marked by elaborate arrangements, including the serving of shahi biryani to around 40,000 attendees.

Centre opposes Wangchuk's video appearance in SC

NEW DELHI, PTI The Centre on Monday opposed in the Supreme Court the request made by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk to appear through video conferencing from Jodhpur jail in the case related to his detention under the National Security Act. The top court was hearing a plea filed by Gitanjali J Angmo, wife of Wangchuk, alleging that his detention was illegal and an arbitrary exercise that violated his fundamental rights. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Angmo, told a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria that the activist wanted to be connected via video from jail and sought permission from the bench. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, opposed the request, saying, "We will have to give the same treatment to all convicts across the country." The top court adjourned the matter for hearing on December 15. On November 24, the top court had deferred the matter after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the UT of Ladakh, sought time to respond to the rejoinder filed by Angmo. On October 29, the top court sought responses from the Centre and the Ladakh administration on an amended plea of Angmo. Wangchuk was detained under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) on September 26, two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union territory. The government had accused him of inciting the violence. The amended plea by Angmo contended that the detention order is founded upon "stale FIRs, vague imputations, and speculative assertions, lacks any live or proximate connection to the purported grounds of detention and is thus devoid of any legal or factual justification".

'Cancer-to-cancel': Nagpur's NCI emerges as central India's oncology hub

NAGPUR, DHNS: As people drive out of Nagpur, they come across an imposing structure that resembles a space command centre, with a tall national tricolour at the front. A closer look reveals it to be the National Cancer Institute (NCI) — and as one approaches, several boards can be seen, including one reading "cancer-to-cancel". Stakeholders here are referred to as 'kark-yoddhas' (cancer warriors) and caregivers as 'kark-sevaks'. The NCI, a low-cost charitable quaternary care oncology centre, has emerged as the hub of cancer treatment in central India and will soon have a research wing with international collaborations. Notably, the NCI offers free

treatment to children affected by cancer. "The philosophy is simple... it should not look like a hospital... it should not feel like a hospital... it should not smell like a hospital," said eminent social worker and educationist Shailesh Joglekar, General Secretary and CEO of NCI-Nagpur. Many of those involved in running the institute have lost close family members to cancer. The idea for such a setup was conceived by Joglekar, who lost his wife to cancer in 2001, and his childhood friend and now Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who lost his father and former MLC Gangadhar Rao Fadnis to cancer when he was barely 17. "It is now the first cancer hospital in central India to have over 450 beds. It is the only cancer hospital in the region with a paediatric ward and oncology ICU. "Plans are afoot to provide advanced facilities like proton beam and carbon ion therapy at cost-effective rates. NCI will also increase its bed capacity to 750," Joglekar told *DH*.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

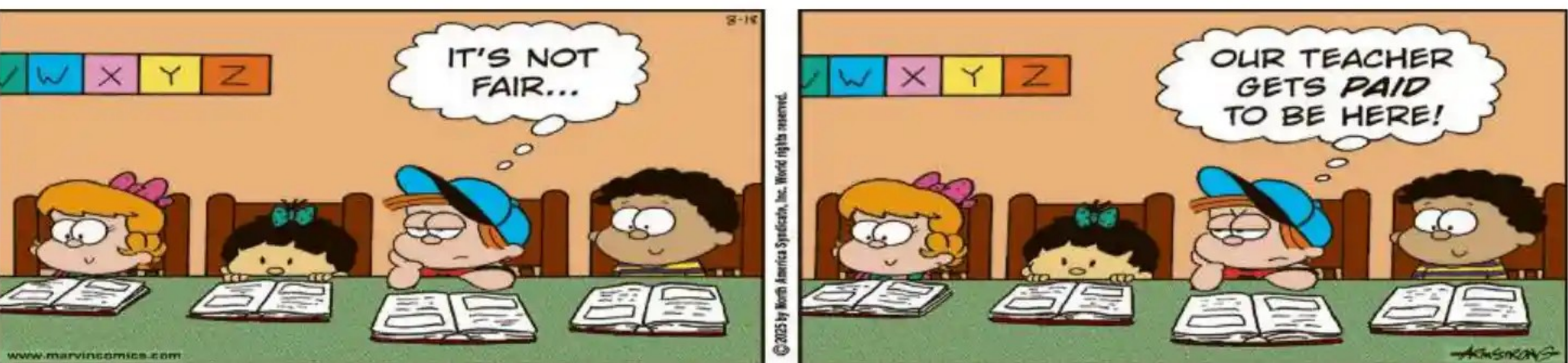
Blondie



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LECIR

PRAEO

TKHESC

MYOERM

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Yesterday's Jumbles: FRAME ELDER TAUGHT LENGTH
Answer: They would leave the all-you-can-eat buffet when everyone was in — FULL AGREEMENT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kneurek

You know they have grocery stores that sell all that, right?

By growing it ourselves, we know it's all organic.

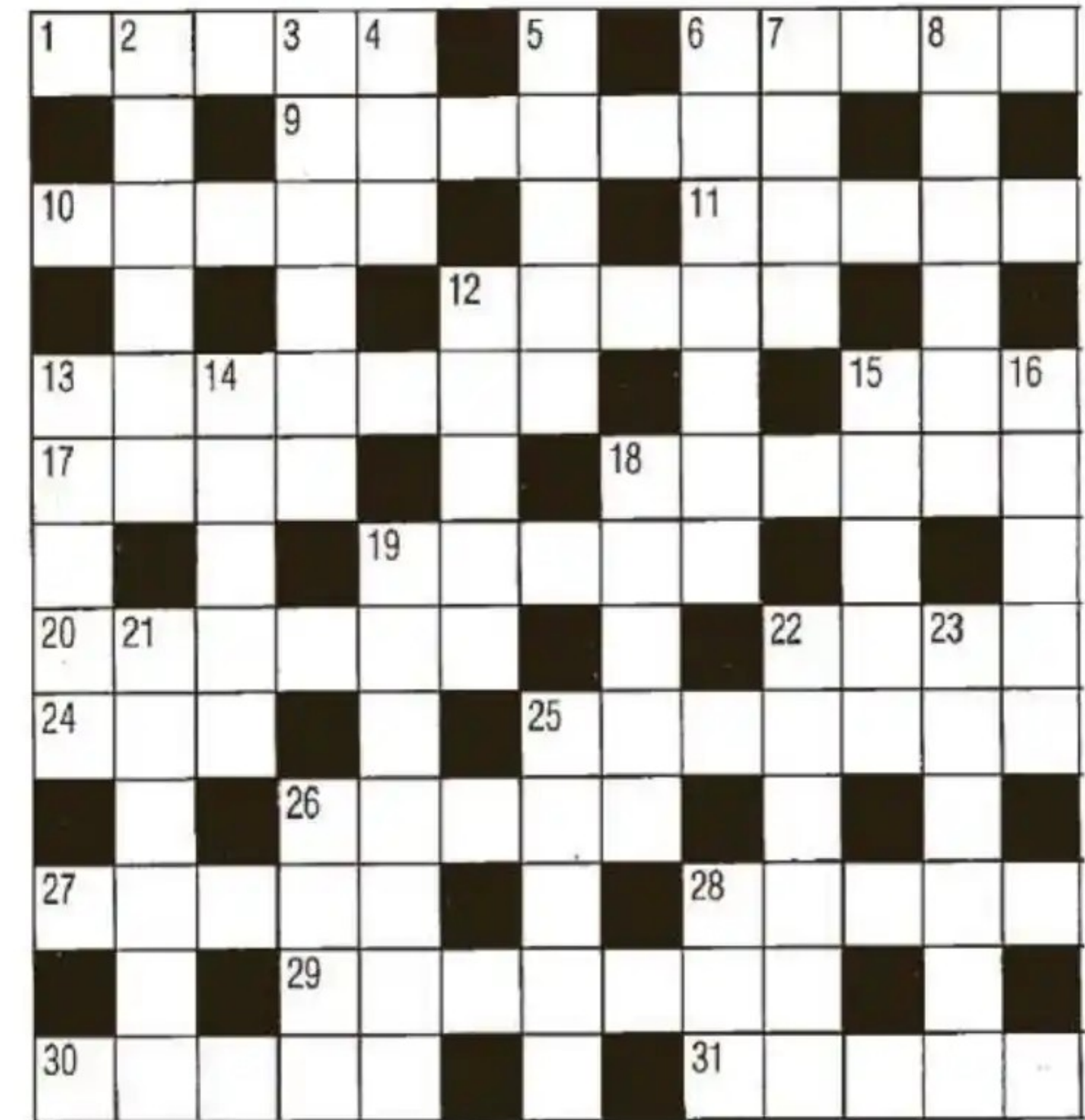
It's right off the vine. Would you like some?

THEY GREW AND HARVESTED THEIR OWN FOOD BECAUSE THEY WERE --

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

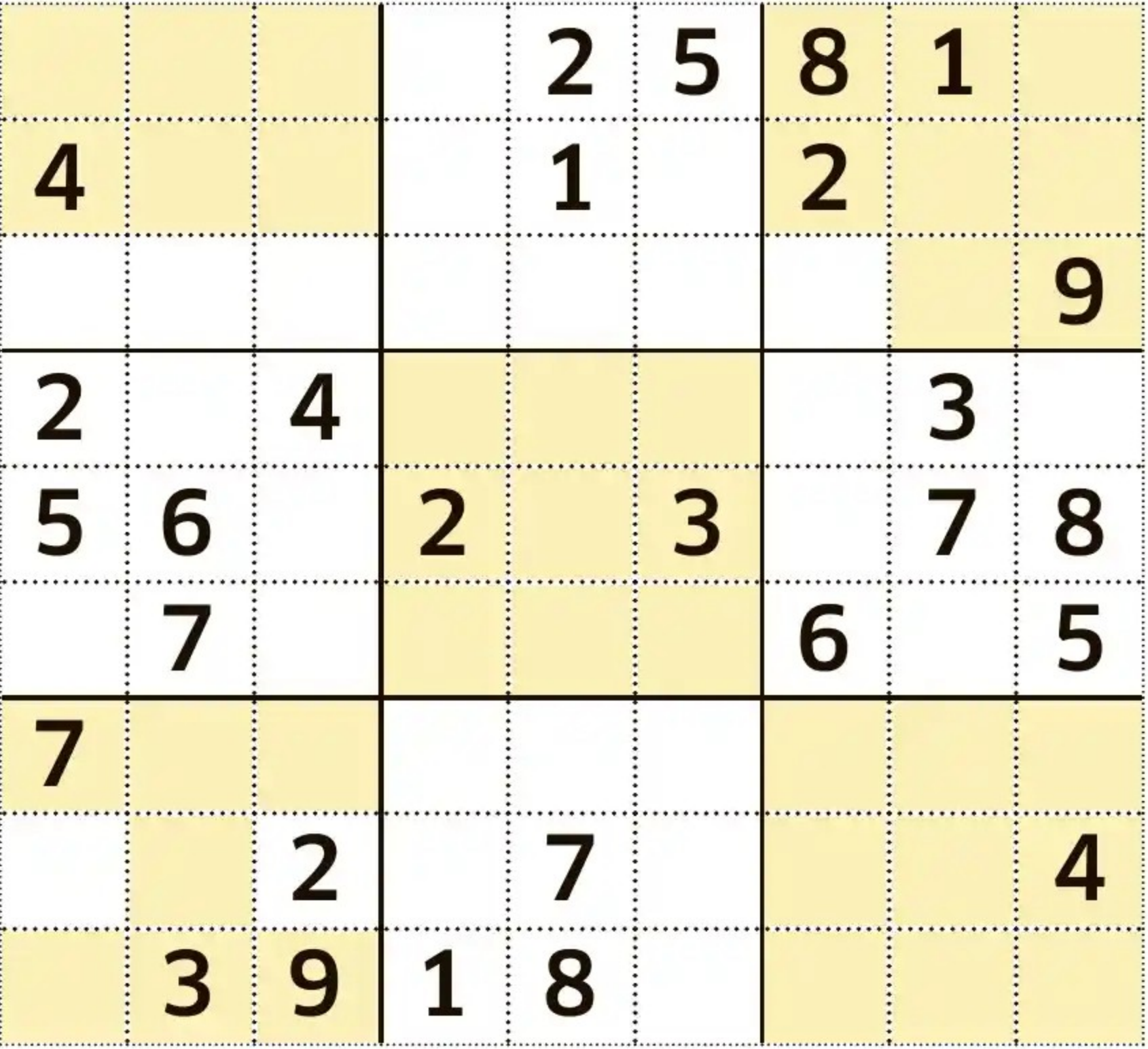
CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12305



- ACROSS
- 1 Secret hoard (5)
- 6 Sheriff's men (5)
- 9 Dictionary (7)
- 10 Stone worker (5)
- 11 Drink noisily (5)
- 12 Landing pier (5)
- 13 Mounted bullfighter (7)
- 15 Cutting tool (3)
- 17 Religious image (4)
- 18 Schedule (6)
- 19 Abrupt (5)
- 20 Newspaper boss (6)
- 22 Number (4)
- 24 Transgression (3)
- 25 Temporal (7)
- 26 Broaden (5)
- 27 Surcoat (5)
- 28 Film (5)
- 29 Stroll (7)
- 30 Insurgent (5)
- 31 At no time (5)
- DOWN
- 2 Mournful, pitiable (6)
- 3 Catchword (6)
- 4 Farmyard bird (3)
- 5 Colliery worker (5)
- 6 Cost of sending mail (7)
- 7 Solely (4)
- 8 Diffuse (6)
- 12 Extra playing card (5)
- 13 Heaps (5)
- 14 Boy's name (5)
- 15 Escargot (5)
- 16 Bet (5)
- 18 Pallid (5)
- 19 Of current affairs (7)
- 21 Water down (6)
- 22 Uphear (6)
- 23 Travelling case (6)
- 25 Paris river (5)
- 26 Sagacious (4)
- 28 Blokes (3)

- ACROSS
- 1 Female credited as having an important station? (5)
- 6 Put up with inadequate seating (5)
- 9 A town and more (7)
- 10 Correct what's been misnamed? (5)
- 11 A burdensome thing to do (5)
- 12 My tea cannot be vegetarian (5)
- 13 Being sadly sick at heart is relatively pointless (7)
- 15 May refer to humbug in a letter to a bachelor (3)
- 17 Keen to shake up the joint (4)
- 18 The spirit said to be within me (6)
- 19 He built a manor (with baths?) (5)
- 20 It's fun, possibly for a detachment of police (6)
- 22 The tea lady? (4)
- 24 Infantile enthusiast? (3)
- 25 Containing nothing, the new poster is worst (7)
- 26 Flier possessing a bottle opener in wrought iron (5)
- 27 Figures of fun in court? (5)
- 28 A name to preserve, that is? (5)
- 29 Gets so upset about nothing with minor actors! (7)
- 30 Talk harshly at a good speed (5)
- 31 Those getting together for a bite? (5)
- CRYPTIC
- 2 Keep regulating airmen (6)
- 3 Fiddle a point by degrees? (6)
- 4 The ultimate in fiendishness (3)
- 5 One who fights doggedly? (5)
- 6 Notices the difference, just a bit (7)
- 7 At the office, maybe in or out (4)
- 8 Girl left behind as usual (6)
- 12 Wine for myself and the GP (5)
- 13 A runner and two fatheads in a boat (5)
- 14 No elm produces fruit (5)
- 15 When he goes to bat, you wash (5)
- 16 Pumping centre (5)
- 18 Dixon's associate, a stone worker (5)
- 19 A pointed reply (7)
- 21 Weapon used by gunners at the point of landing (6)
- 22 A wrinkle to stop outright! (6)
- 23 Pass to the scorer (6)
- 25 As an airman, is he a little light? (5)
- 26 What's left of one's holiday? (4)
- 28 Could just one tend to blacken the sky? (3)

◆ SU-DO-KU-6772 ◆

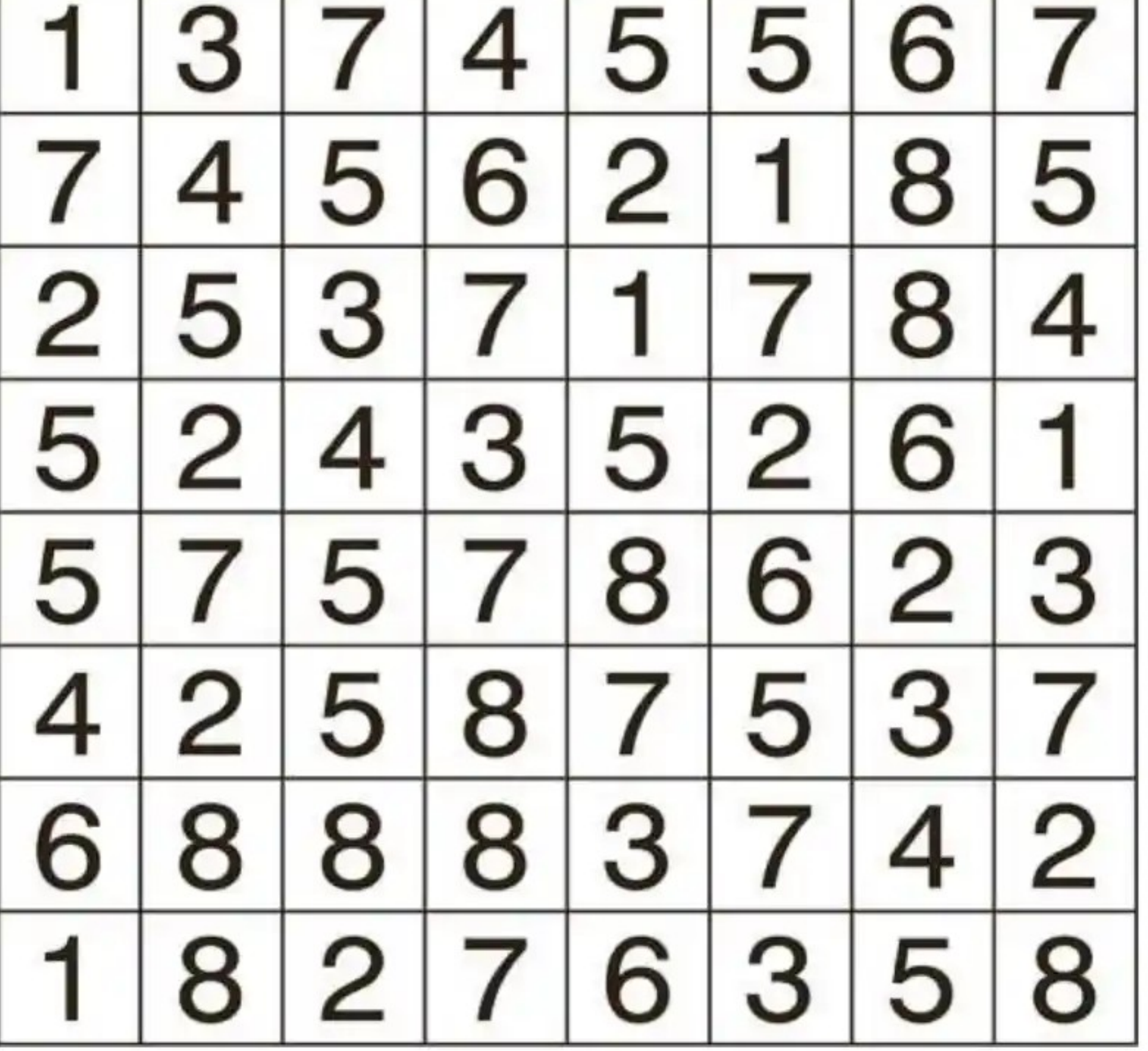


SOLUTION TO 6771

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

3 5 4 1 8 9 6 2 7
7 1 8 2 4 6 3 5 9
6 9 2 3 5 7 1 4 8
5 3 6 7 9 4 2 8 1
1 2 7 8 3 5 9 6 4
8 4 9 6 2 1 7 3 5
9 6 5 4 1 2 8 7 3
2 8 1 5 7 3 4 9 6
4 7 3 9 6 8 5 1 2

HITORI-3226

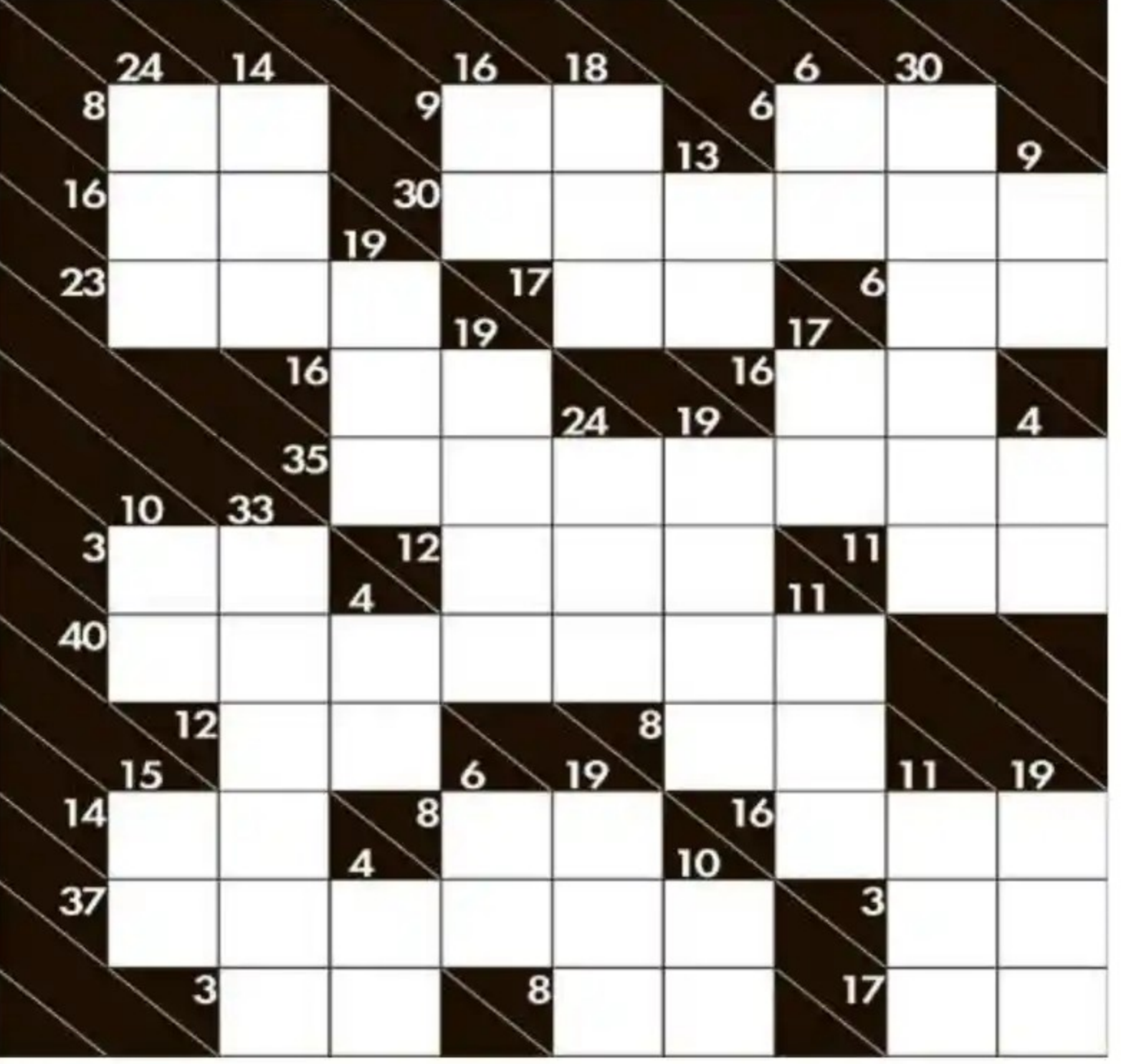


SOLUTION TO 3225

7 5 1 4 6 2
5 7 8 6 4 1
8 3 6 7 2 5 4
4 7 2 1 8 6
2 1 3 7 4
6 4 8 1 3 7
3 8 1 7 5 2
4 2 5 8 1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3226

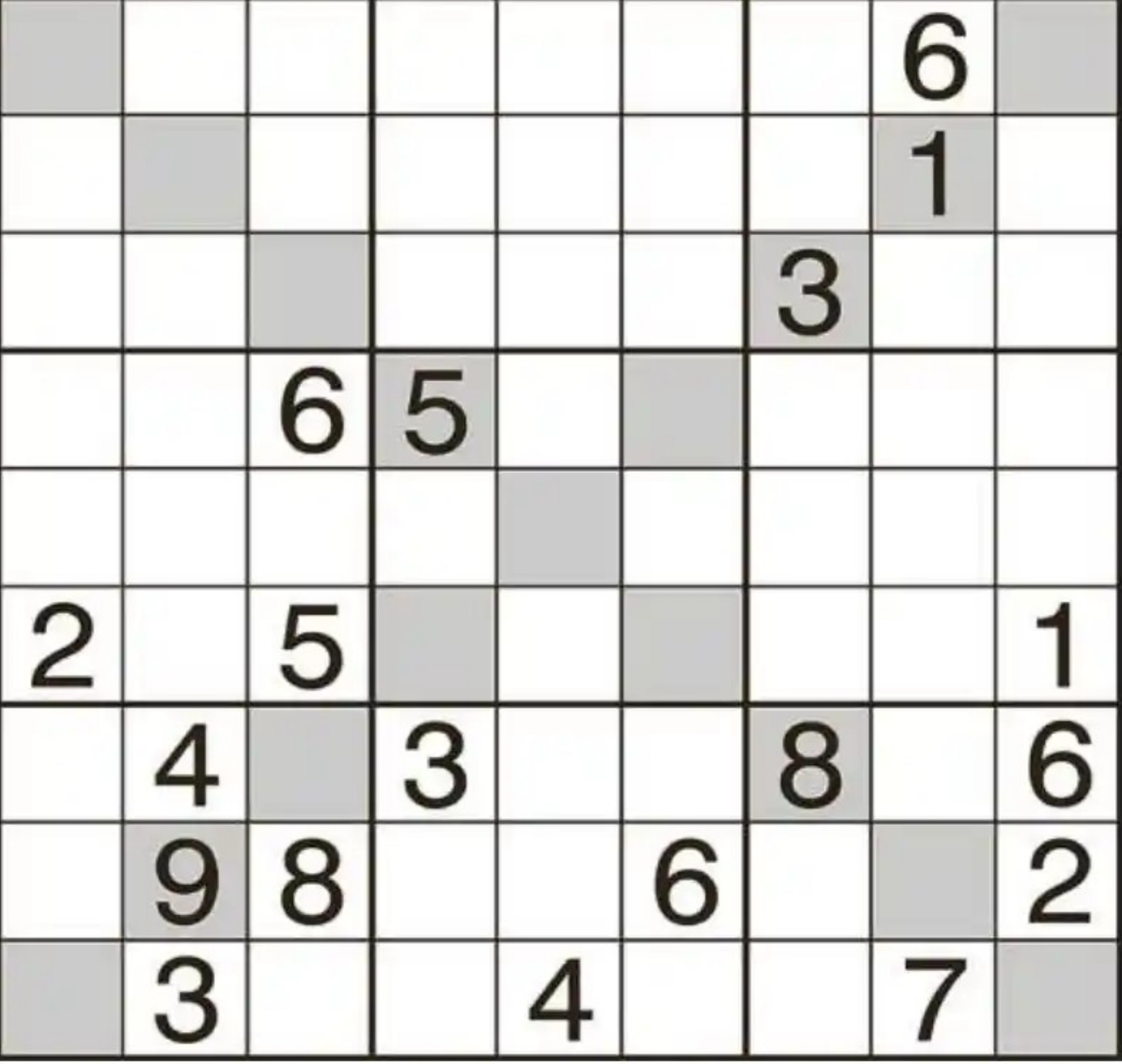


SOLUTION TO 3225

7 11 16 21 26 31 36 41 46 51 56 61 66 71 76 81 86 91 96 101 106 111 116 121 126 131 136 141 146 151 156 161 166 171 176 181 186 191 196 201 206 211 216 221 226 231 236 241 246 251 256 261 266 271 276 281 286 291 296 301 306 311 316 321 326 331 336 341 346 351 356 361 366 371 376 381 386 391 396 401 406 411 416 421 426 431 436 441 446 451 456 461 466 471 476 481 486 491 496 501 506 511 516 521 526 531 536 541 546 551 556 561 566 571 576 581 586 591 596 601 606 611 616 621 626 631 636 641 646 651 656 661 666 671 676 681 686 691 696 701 706 711 716 721 726 731 736 741 746 751 756 761 766 771 776 781 786 791 796 801 806 811 816 821 826 831 836 841 846 851 856 861 866 871 876 881 886 891 896 901 906 911 916 921 926 931 936 941 946 951 956 961 966 971 976 981 986 991 996

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X- 3760



SOLUTION TO 3759

8 9 5 1 4 6 2 3 7
3 4 6 2 9 7 5 1 8
1 7 2 5 8 3 6 4 9
5 8 3 7 6 4 9 2 1
6 1 7 9 3 2 4 8 5
9 2 4 8 1 5 7 6 3
4 6 9 3 7 8 1 5 2
7 5 8 6 2 1 3 9 4
2 3 1 4 5 9 8 7 6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

SCRABBLE™

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PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

Q₄ U₁ O₁ R₁ U₁ M₁
F₁ A₁ N₁ K₁ L₁ E₁
C₁ A₁ L₁ E₁ R₁
F₁ L₁ U₁ I₁ D₂ S₁
P₁ O₁ R₁ T₁ I₁ C₁ O₁

RACK 1 = 34
RACK 2 = 23
RACK 3 = 24
RACK 4 = 10
RACK 5 = 61
JUDD'S TOTAL 152

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Q₄ U₁ O₁ R₁ U₁ M₁
F₁ A₁ N₁ K₁ L₁ E₁
C₁ A₁ L₁ E₁ R₁
F₁ L₁ U₁ I₁ D₂ S₁
P₁ O₁ R₁ T₁ I₁ C₁ O₁

RACK 1 = 34
RACK 2 = 23
RACK 3 = 24
RACK 4 = 10
RACK 5 = 61
JUDD'S TOTAL 152

DEFENCE ALIGNMENT

US defence bill seeks deeper engagement with India

Washington's defence blueprint calls for bolstering ties to counter China

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

The annual defence policy bill of the US has highlighted the broadening of America's engagement with India, including through the Quad, to advance the shared objective of a free and open Indo-Pacific region and to address

the challenge posed by China. The National Defence Authorisation Act for Fiscal Year 2026, released by Congressional leaders on Sunday, outlines the "sense of Congress on Defence Alliances and Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region". It states that the Secretary of Defence should continue efforts to strengthen US defence alliances and partnerships in the region to further the "comparative advantage of the US in strategic competition" with China. Among other measures, these efforts include "broadening US engagement with India, including through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, to advance the shared

PARTNERSHIP PUSH
■ The bill emphasises expanding engagement with India to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and counter China's growing influence.
■ It calls for deeper defence ties, including maritime security, joint exercises, defence industrial collaboration, and a US-India mechanism to align nuclear liability rules with international norms.

objective of a free and open Indo-Pacific region through bilateral and multilateral engagements and participation in military exercises, expanded defence trade, and col-

laboration on humanitarian aid and disaster response". The provisions also include enabling greater cooperation on maritime security with New Delhi. The Quad, comprising India, US, Japan, and Australia, was established in 2017 to counter China's increasingly assertive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region. The defence policy bill further states that the Secretary of Defence, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall establish and maintain a security initiative to strengthen cooperation among the defence industrial bases of the US and allied and partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region. This, the bill says, would strengthen the collective defence industrial base by expanding capability, capacity, and workforce, including enhanced supply chain security, interoperability, and resilience among participating nations. The two Secretaries are required to establish a process to determine which allies and partners of the US (including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, the Philippines, and New Zealand) shall be invited to participate as member countries of the security initiative. The draft bill also calls on the Secretary of State to establish and maintain, within the US-India Strategic Security Dialogue, a joint consultative mechanism with the Indian government.

Thailand launches airstrikes on Cambodia

Trump-brokered ceasefire deal hangs in balance

BANGKOK, AP/PTI

Thailand launched airstrikes along the disputed border with Cambodia on Monday as both sides accused each other of breaking a ceasefire that halted fighting earlier this year. Longstanding border disputes erupted into five days of combat in July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. US President Donald Trump pushed the Southeast Asian neighbours to sign a truce agreement in October, but tensions have continued to simmer. The Thai army said over 50,000 people have left areas near the border for shelters, while Cambodia's Information Minister Neth Pheaktra said residents of several villages near the frontier have been evacuated. The latest round of clashes has killed at least one Thai soldier and four Cambodian civilians, officials said. Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said in a televised speech that military operations would be carried out as necessary to defend the country and protect public safety. The ceasefire was strained in early November after Thai troops were injured by land

ANUTIN CHARNVIRAKUL
Thai prime minister
“I would like to reiterate that Thailand has never initiated a fight or an invasion, but will never tolerate a violation of its sovereignty.”

mines, leading Thailand to announce that it would indefinitely suspend implementation of the agreement. Both sides continue to trade accusations over responsibility. Trump said in mid-November that he had intervened to preserve the ceasefire as tensions rose between the two countries. Another brief episode of fighting took place along the border on Sunday, after which both sides claimed the other fired first. The Thai army said Cambodian fire injured two soldiers, prompting Thai troops to retaliate. On Monday, Thai army spokesperson said Cambodian troops fired first into Thai territory in several areas. He said at least one Thai soldier was killed and around eight others were wounded.



People flee amid clashes between Thailand and Cambodia along the border in Oddar, Cambodia, on Monday. REUTERS

MARKING A CHANGE



Syrians celebrate the first anniversary of Bashar al-Assad's fall at the Ummayad Square in Damascus on Monday. REUTERS

US should not interfere in our affairs: EU top official

Costa slams Trump's new national security strategy

BRUSSELS, AP/PTI

Atop European Union official on Monday warned the United States against interfering in Europe's affairs, saying that only European citizens can decide which parties should govern them. European Council President Antonio Costa's remarks came in response to the Trump administration's new national security strategy, published on Friday, which portrays European allies as weak while offering tacit support to far-right political parties. It is "good" that the strategy still identifies European countries as allies, Costa said, but "allies don't threaten to interfere in the domestic political choices of their allies". "What we can't accept is the threat of interference in European political life. The United States cannot replace European citizens in choosing what the good or the bad

ANTONIO COSTA
EU Council President
“What we can't accept is the threat of interference in European political life. The United States cannot replace European citizens in choosing what the good or the bad parties are.”

parties are," he said in Paris at the Jacques Delors Institute, a think tank. Fabian Zuleeg, chief executive of the European Policy Centre think tank, said that strongly nationalist parties in Europe will be emboldened by the strategy document and "will intensify efforts to hollow out the EU from within". The strategy was also critical of European free-speech protections and migration policy. US allies in Europe face the "prospect of civilisational erasure", the document claimed, raising doubts about their long-term reliability as American partners. However, Costa, who chairs summits of the 27 national EU leaders, said Europe's "history has taught

MAJOR SHIFT
■ The new US security strategy is the administration's first since President Donald Trump returned to office in January 2025. It marks a sharp break from the approach taken by Joe Biden's Democratic administration, which sought to reinvestigate American alliances.

us that you can't have freedom of speech without freedom of information". The former Portuguese prime minister also warned: "There will never be free speech if the freedom of information of citizens is sacrificed for the aims of the tech oligarchs in the United States." Speaking to reporters in Berlin, German government spokesperson Sebastian Hille stressed that "Europe and the US are historically, economically and culturally linked, and remain close partners". "But we reject the partly critical tones against the EU," he said. "Political freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression, belong to the fundamental values of the European Union."

No one will be allowed to test Pak's territorial integrity: Munir

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir on Monday said Pakistan is a peaceful nation but warned that no one would be allowed to test Islamabad's territorial integrity or sovereignty. Addressing the officers of the armed forces following a guard of honour at the GHQ to honour him on being appointed as the country's first CDF, Munir said that Pakistan's response will be "much more swift and severe" in case of any aggression. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes and ended on May 10. Munir reiterated that Pakistan is a peace-loving country, but warned that no one will be allowed to threaten the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, or test its resolve. Speaking on Pakistan-Afghanistans tensions, Munir: "The (Afghan) Taliban have no option but to choose between Fitna al-Khawarij and Pakistan," he said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



A woman pets her Golden Retriever during a meetup seeking to break the world record for the largest gathering of the breed, in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Monday. REUTERS

YouTube's Neal Mohan named TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year

► YouTube's Indian-origin Chief Executive Officer Neal Mohan has been named as the 2025 CEO of the Year by TIME magazine, PTI reports from New York.



Neal Mohan

"In many ways, YouTube is creating the cultural diet that the globe is beginning to subsist on. Mohan is the farmer; what he cultivates will be what we eat," TIME said in its profile of the executive. "YouTube provides the soil, and everyone comes and plants whatever nourishing or noxious plants they care to. As the garden takes over more of the planet, even threatening some old-growth forests, whatever grows there becomes what

everyone consumes, because it's what's available, and often what's free," it said. Describing Mohan, TIME said the pilot of the world's most powerful distraction machine is "surprisingly mellow". "He's quiet-spoken, deliberative, hard to ruffle. He likes watching sports, going to his daughters' dance recitals, and open white shirts, just normal stuff... If you ask him to be in your YouTube video, he'll probably do it. He won't be great in it, but neither will he be horrible," it said.

100 Nigerian students released

► A total of 100 of the schoolchildren abducted from a Nigerian Catholic school last month have been released, the Christian Association of Nigeria said on Monday, adding that more than 100 students remain in captivity, AP/PTI reports from Minna (Nigeria). At least 303 school-

children were seized at the Niger state school together with 12 of their teachers when gunmen attacked the St. Mary's Catholic School in Papiri community on Nov. 21. Fifty escaped in the hours that followed. Daniel Atori, a spokesman for the association in Niger state, said.



Palestinian Hamas militants secure the area as Egyptian workers accompanied by the Red Cross search for the remains of the last Israeli hostage in Gaza City on Monday. AFP

Briton jailed over Indian hires

► A director of a care home agency based in south-east England has been jailed for two-and-a-half years after being found guilty of repeatedly employing immigrants from India with no right to work in the UK, PTI reports from London. Benoy Thomas was convicted after a trial at Lewes Crown Court in July and sentenced on Friday, the UK's Crown Prosecution Service said.

The 50-year-old was found to have recruited Indians to work as care assistants through his A Class Care Recruitment Ltd at Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex, despite being aware of their illegal status. "Benoy Thomas knowingly breached immigration laws by employing people who had no right to work in the UK," Katie Samways, Specialist Prosecutor for CPS South East, said.

Bomb blast kills over 30 in Congo

► A bomb explosion killed more than 30 people and wounded 20 others in eastern Congo following a dispute between the Congolese army and a pro-government militia, despite a deal signed in Washington and touted as a major step toward peace in the country, AP/PTI reports from Goma.

Residents and civil society leaders told The Associated Press that the FARDC, the Congolese army's acronym, and Wazalendo, which has been helping the army combat the insurgents, clashed before they felt the blast in the town of Sange in South Kivu on Sunday evening.



A farmer kicks a tear gas canister as Greek farmers protest the delayed payment of European Union subsidies in Heraklion on Monday. REUTERS

‘One Battle After Another’ leads Golden Globe nominations

BEVERLY HILLS (US), AP/PTI

Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another* scored a leading nine nominations at the 83rd Golden Globe Awards on Monday, adding to the Oscar favourite's momentum and handing Warner Bros a boost as it moves toward being acquired by Netflix. *One Battle After Another* earned nominations for its cast — Leonardo DiCaprio, Teyana Taylor, Sean Penn and Chase Infiniti — along with nods for Anderson's screenplay and direction. It is competing in the Globes' comedy and musicals category. Close behind was Joachim Trier's *Sentimental Value*, a Norwegian family drama about a filmmaking family. It received eight nominations,



A Golden Globe Award is displayed during a media preview in Beverly Hills, California, on Monday. AFP

including recognition for four of its actors: Stellan Skarsgård, Renate Reinse, Elle Fanning and Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas. The Globe nominations — a tattered but enduring fixture in Hollywood — arrive amid

what could be a seismic shift in the entertainment industry. On Friday, Netflix agreed to buy Warner Bros Discovery for \$72 billion. If approved, the deal would reshape Hollywood and place one of its most historic studios in the hands of the streaming giant. In addition to *One Battle After Another*, Warner Bros has *Sinners*, Ryan Coogler's acclaimed vampire hit, which received seven Globe nominations, including for box office achievement. Netflix's contenders include Noah Baumbach's *Jay Kelly*, Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein*, and the streaming blockbuster *KPop Demon Hunters*. Nominations were announced by Marlon Wayans and Skye P Marshall in Beverly Hills, California.

Powerful 7.6 quake strikes off Japan, tsunami warning lifted

TOKYO, AFP: A major earthquake rocked Japan's northern coast on Monday, with the country's meteorological agency recording several tsunami waves and local media reporting injuries. The magnitude 7.6 quake — which struck off Misawa on Japan's Pacific coast — reportedly forced residents to flee their homes and left thousands of people without power. The Japan Meteorological Agency issued a tsunami warning, with onewave hitting a port in the northern region of Aomori, where Misawa is located. Several more waves reached the coast, measuring up to 70 cm, JMA reported. Early on Tuesday the agency lifted the tsunami warning,

according to Kyodo news agency, although JMA said lower-grade advisories remained in effect for parts of northern Japan. Public broadcaster NHK cited a hotel employee in the city of Hachinohe in Aomori as saying there had been some injuries as a result of the quake, which hit at 1415 GMT. The US Geological Survey recorded the temblor at a depth of 44 km. Live footage showed shattered glass fragments scattered across roads. Hachinohe residents fled their homes to seek shelter in the city hall, NHK said. Some 2,700 homes in Aomori were without power, according to Kyodo, and there were numerous reports of fire. A reporter for NHK in Hok-

kaido described a horizontal shaking of around 30 seconds that made him unable to remain standing as the earthquake struck. The meteorological agency earlier warned a tsunami of up to three metres was expected to hit Japan's Pacific coast. Top government spokesman Minoru Kihara had urged residents to stay in a safe place until the warning had been lifted. The area could see strong quakes in the coming days, the government warned in a separate press conference. Kihara said he had "received no reports yet of abnormalities" from two nuclear power plants in northern Japan, adding that probes are ongoing in other nuclear facilities.

Flight cancellations credit negative, to hit IndiGo financially, says Moody's

Warns airline could face revenue loss, penalties

NEW DELHI, PTI

The widespread disruptions in IndiGo flights, resulting from the airline's failure to plan for aviation regulations communicated to the industry more than a year in advance, could result in financial damage from loss of revenue, as well as potential penalties for cancellations, Moody's Ratings said on Monday.

In a note, Moody's said the disruptions are "credit negative" for the airline. "Despite temporary reprieve, failure to effectively plan for new aviation regulations is credit negative."

The disruptions, which coincided with peak winter schedules, resulted in over 1,600 flight cancellations on December 5, after similar operational issues in November left more than 1,200 flights grounded. Flight cancellations started on December 2 and the airline is yet to restore normalcy. More than 500 flights were cancelled on Monday.

"The disruptions are credit negative because IndiGo could face significant financial damage from loss of revenue because of flight cancellations, refunds and other compensation to affected customers,

along with potential penalties imposed by DGCA," Moody's said.

Moody's cited the airline's "significant lapses in planning, oversight and resource management" as the primary cause, noting that the regulations had been communicated to the industry more than a year in advance.

The airline, rated Baa3 with a stable outlook, last week received a temporary exemption from the DGCA for its Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules, effective until February 10, 2026.

This followed a week-long period of IndiGo reporting massive delays and cancellations of its flights caused by a mix of regulatory changes and weather conditions that exacerbated the company's lapses in planning, amid a peak winter schedule for the airline.

IndiGo's lean operational model, effective under normal conditions, lacked resilience to absorb the regulatory changes, triggering a system-wide schedule reset.

DGCA has issued show-cause notices to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and COO Isidro Porqueras, raising questions about leadership continuity. The Ministry of Civil Aviation



Luggage of passengers whose IndiGo flight was cancelled on trolleys at an airport in Pune, earlier this week. REUTERS

Key observations

- Despite temporary reprieve, failure to effectively plan for new aviation regulations is credit negative
- Recent flight disruptions underscore significant lapses in planning, oversight and resource management
- IndiGo may face reputational damage, which may affect its code-sharing arrangements

(MoCA) has directed the airline to process all customer refunds by December 7, without levies, while potential penalties remain under consideration.

"Recent flight disruptions underscore significant lapses in planning, oversight and resource management by IndiGo because the new regulations had been known to the industry for more than a year. The airline's lean operations, which

provide cost efficiencies in stable times, lacked the resilience needed for this change in regulations, leading to the need for a system-wide reboot that led to cancellation(s)," Moody's said.

It said, following a schedule reset over December 5-6, IndiGo has gradually restored services. The CEO confirmed that 1,650 of its 2,200 daily flights are operational, and expected a return to full schedules by mid-December.

"Although the fundamentals of IndiGo's Baa3 rating remain intact, including its dominant market share, low penetration rates for air travel in India, strong macro growth fundamentals and IndiGo's long-term leverage sustainable below 3.5x, the airline's profitability will be negatively impacted in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2026," it said.

Moreover, there will be some reputational damage for IndiGo, which may hurt the company, especially in its code-sharing arrangements.

EXCON 2025 kicks off today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The 13th edition of EXCON 2025, South Asia's premier construction equipment exhibition, will take place from December 9 to 13, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) in Bengaluru.

Hosted by CII, EXCON will span 3.5 million sq ft of exhibition space with over 1,250 exhibitors, including 134 international participants from 20 countries. This edition features seven country pavilions — France, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Türkiye, China, and the UK.

TASL breaks ground on MRO

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) on Monday kick-started the setting up of a defence MRO facility in India to support Lockheed Martin's C-130J Super Hercules heavy-lift military transport aircraft.

The groundbreaking of the facility in Bengaluru came as TASL and Lockheed Martin are partnering to pitch the C-130J Super Hercules as the best aircraft in the race to win a mega deal to supply around 80 heavy-lift transport aircraft to the IAF.

HCLTech partners with Dolphin Semiconductor to co-develop energy-efficient chips

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services firm HCLTech has partnered with Semiconductor IP solutions provider Dolphin Semiconductor to co-develop energy-efficient chips. HCLTech will embed Dolphin's specialised low-power IP into its silicon design workflows. This integration will deliver scalable, high-efficiency SoCs (system-on-chip) that reduce energy consumption, while maintaining robust computational capabilities across diverse workloads, the IT firm said.

"By partnering with HCLTech, we will be able to extend the reach of our low-power IP to more applications and customers than ever before. This partnership will help us push the boundaries of energy-efficient computing — whether it is for IoT devices or datacentre ecosystems," said Dolphin Semiconductor EVP of Engineering Pierre-Marie Dell'Accio.

"As AI workloads surge, data grows exponentially, and sustainability becomes a top priority. Our collaboration with Dolphin Semiconductor will empower our clients to lead with agility, high performance and a strong commitment to environmental responsibility," HCLTech CVP and Head of Engineer-



ing and R&D Services Hari Sadarahlali said.

Both companies will help enterprises address growing demands for energy efficiency and high performance in increasingly complex and connected environments.

Tata and Intel partner

Tata Group and Intel Corporation will explore a collaboration focused on consumer and enterprise hardware enablement, and semiconductor and systems manufacturing to support the country's domestic semiconductor ecosystem. This marks a pivotal step towards developing an India-based geo-resilient electronics and semiconductor supply chain, Tata Group said.

As part of the MoU, Intel and Tata intend to explore manufacturing and packaging of Intel products for local markets at Tata Electronics' upcoming Fab and OSAT facilities, as well as a collaboration for advanced packaging in India.

US, India to hold trade talks on December 10-11

NEW DELHI, PTI

A delegation led by Deputy US Trade Representative Rick Switzer will meet his Indian counterpart Rajesh Agarwal on the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) here this week, sources said.

The US' chief negotiator for the pact, Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch, will hold discussions with India's chief negotiator and Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce Darpan Jain.

"A delegation from the office of the US Trade Representative, led by Deputy US Trade Representative Ambassador Rick Switzer, will be visiting India from December 9-11, 2025. Talks on the 10th and 11th will happen on all trade-related issues," they said.

The visit is crucial as India



and the US are working to finalise the first tranche of the pact. This visit of the US officials marks their second trip since the imposition of a 25% tariff and an additional 25% penalty on Indian goods entering the American market due to the purchase of Russian crude oil.

The US officials last visited India on September 16.

On September 22, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also led an official delegation to the US for trade talks. Goyal had also visited Washington in May.

The talks are also important as Commerce Secretary Agrawal recently stated that

India is hopeful of reaching a framework trade deal with the US this year itself, which should address the tariff issue to benefit Indian exporters.

While noting that the BTA will take time, Agrawal added that India is engaged in protracted negotiations with the US on a framework trade deal that will address the reciprocal tariff challenge faced by Indian exporters.

India and the US are having two parallel negotiations — one on a framework trade deal on tariffs and another on a comprehensive trade deal.

In February, leaders of both countries directed officials to negotiate an agreement. It was planned to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall of 2025. So far, six rounds of negotiations have been held. The agreement aims to more than double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

Virat Kohli to sell One8 to sportswear startup Agilitas Sports

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian batting ace Virat Kohli has decided to sell his sporting and lifestyle brand One8, to Agilitas Sports, a sportswear startup, and also invest Rs 40 crore as part of own-



Virat Kohli

ing a minority stake in the Bengaluru-based startup firm. A couple of days after steering India to a 2-1 series win over South Africa, where he earned the man-of-the-series honour, Kohli took to

X to make the announcement. "Today marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter straight from my heart. A new journey begins for One8 and Agilitas, driven by purpose and ambition. Taking One8 home to Agilitas," Kohli posted on X.

Auto retail sales up 2.14% in Nov; PV sales rise 20%

GST benefits, wedding season demand bring cheer

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS



Retail sales of automobiles went up 2.14% year-on-year in November due to sustained demand beyond the festive season. Aided by GST benefits, wedding season demand, and better supply of high-waiting models, the November month witnessed a robust 19.7% rise in sales of passenger vehicles (PV), 19.94% in commercial vehicles (CV), and 56.55% in tractors, while three-wheelers saw 23.67% growth, dealers body FADA said on Monday.

FADA president CS Vigneshwar said PV inventory was reduced to 44-46 days, compared to 53-55 days, earlier. This resulted in sales of 3,94,152 units of PVs in November, compared to 3,29,253 units in the same month last year. The two-wheeler sales, however, declined 3.10% in November 2025 at 25,46,184 units, compared to 26,27,617 units in the year-ago month.

CV sales went up 19.94% to 94,935 units, as against 79,152 units in November 2024, while tractor sales jumped 56.55% to 1,26,033 units during November this year, as against 73,577 units last year.

"November 2025 defied the conventional post-festive slowdown, delivering a resilient performance despite an unusually high comparative base. Traditionally, auto retail eases in the month following the festival cycle. However, this year, most festive regis-

trations were completed in October 2025 itself, unlike November 2024, when Deepavali and Dhanteras fell in towards the end of October 2024, and vehicle registrations happened in November 2024, which lifted volumes significantly," Vigneshwar said.

GST rate cuts coupled with OEM-Dealer retail offers continued pulling customers to showrooms, enabling sustained footfalls beyond the festive period. Price reductions across categories, which ignited strong buying in October, continued to support conversions in November as well, he said.

Commenting on the outlook ahead, Vigneshwar said: "The near-term outlook is supported by improving rural sentiment and favourable macro indicators, as there is a strong start to the rabi season, with sowing crossing 39.3 million hectares, significantly ahead of last year, driven by robust soil moisture conditions, better seed availability, and supportive MSP signals."

Overall, industry sentiment for December can best be characterised as "cautious optimism" — a phase where the sector consolidates gains from the GST-led affordability shift and two strong months of retail performance, while remaining watchful of calendar-year dynamics and supply alignment. With improving rural fundamentals, supportive liquidity, and robust enquiry flow, the industry is positioned to close the year with stable to positive momentum.

Trump Media to invest Rs 1 L cr in Telangana's 'Future City'

S N V SUDHIR
MEERKhanPET, DHNS

In a major announcement that could mark one of the largest foreign investments in Telangana, Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG), the company behind Truth Social — the social media platform founded by US President Donald Trump — has committed to investing Rs 1 lakh crore in the state's upcoming 'Bharat Future City', located about 50 km from Hyderabad.

The announcement came on Monday during the Telangana Rising Global Summit at Bharat Future City, where TMTG Director Eric Swider praised Telangana's rapid economic transformation and investor-friendly ecosystem. "Over the next 10 years, it is my intention to deploy, through our organisations, up to Rs 1 lakh crore into Future City and the surrounding developments," he said at the summit's inaugu-

ral session. The development follows a symbolic gesture by the Telangana government, which recently decided to name a road in Hyderabad's Financial District after Trump, a move seen as a bid to strengthen ties with US investors and acknowledge the US President's brand influence in global business.

Swider, who previously served as CEO of Truth Social, said he was honoured and grateful to be in Telangana and commended the warmth and professionalism of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his team. "The state's vision and momentum over the past two years have absolutely blown me away," he said, adding that Telangana had succeeded in creating an environment where global capital feels genuinely welcome.

He described the proposed investment not merely as a financial venture, but as a commitment to long-term, constructive global change.

IBM to buy Confluent for \$9.3 b to expand AI services

BLOOMBERG

International Business Machines Corp is buying the data-streaming platform Confluent Inc. for about \$9.3 billion, marking one of its largest takeovers yet and a major bet on the kind of enterprise software that artificial intelligence tools need to perform tasks in real time.

IBM will pay \$31 a share, according to a statement issued on Monday. The enterprise value, which includes debt, is \$11 billion, it said. The companies expect the deal to close by the middle of 2026.

If the transaction fails or is terminated, IBM will pay Confluent a breakup fee of \$453.6 million, according to an accompanying regulatory filing.

The acquisition "could significantly improve IBM's AI portfolio, and subsequently its software unit's sales growth," Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Anurag Rana and Andrew Girard wrote on Monday after the Wall Street Journal reported the deal talks. Confluent shares rose as much as 29% to \$29.86 after markets opened in New York, more than a dollar below the offer price. IBM shares

rose as much as 2.4%.

The AI boom has touched off billions of dollars in deals for businesses that build, train or leverage the technology, propelling the value of an entire ecosystem of data center developers, software makers, generative AI tool developers and data management firms. Mountain View, California-based Confluent sits in the data corner of that world, providing a platform for companies to gather — or "stream" — and analyse data in real time as opposed to shipping data in clunkier batches.

Manufacturers such as Michelin, for example, have used Confluent's platform to optimise their inventories of raw and semi-finished materials live. Instacart adopted Confluent to develop real-time fraud detection systems and gain more visibility into the availability of products sold on its grocery delivery platform. Businesses are increasingly tapping AI systems that manage tasks like this in real-time and require live flows of data to do so.

IBM, which pioneered mainframe computers, has been trying to reposition its business around AI over the past few years. Under Chief Executive Officer

Arvind Krishna, it's been buying software companies and selling generative AI-related services to enterprise clients. Software now makes up almost half its total revenue and continues to grow at a steady rate. The Confluent acquisition would be IBM's biggest since it bought cloud software firm Red Hat for about \$34 billion in 2019.

Confluent's takeover stands apart from the multibillion-dollar deals that have dominated the AI space in recent months, largely focused on data centers and the computing power necessary to build and power AI systems themselves. Soaring demand for such capacity has fuelled massive transactions, including BlackRock Inc.'s \$40 billion purchase of Aligned Data Centers and Oracle Corp.'s agreement to supply OpenAI with about 4.5 gigawatts of computing power, worth as much as \$300 billion.

Confluent was started in 2014 by a trio of founders who came from LinkedIn, including the company's current chief executive officer, Jay Kreps. The firm's shares had fallen 17% this year before the *Wall Street Journal* report. The stock is far below its intraday peak of \$94.97 a share in November 2021, following the company's initial public offering.

Paramount makes \$108.4 billion hostile bid for Warner Bros Discovery

REUTERS

Paramount Skydance on Monday launched a hostile bid worth \$108.4 billion for Warner Bros Discovery, in a last-ditch effort to outbid Netflix and create a media powerhouse that would challenge the dominance of the streaming giant.

Netflix had emerged victorious on Friday from a weeks-long bidding war with Paramount and Comcast, securing a \$72 billion equity deal for Warner Bros Discovery's TV, film studios and streaming assets. But Paramount's latest attempt means the jockeying for Warner Bros and its prized HBO and DC Comics assets will not come to a conclusion swiftly.

Paramount argued that its \$30-per-share, all-cash offer for the entirety of Warner



Bros Discovery is superior to Netflix's bid, providing shareholders \$18 billion more in cash and an easier path to regulatory approval. It also argued that the combination of Paramount and Warner Bros would be in the best interest of the creative community, movie theaters and consumers, who would benefit from enhanced competition.

"We believe our offer will create a stronger Hollywood," Paramount CEO David Ellison said in a statement. Netflix's offer comes with a \$5.8 billion break-up fee and was likely to face strong antitrust scrutiny; U.S. President Donald Trump raised questions about the offer over the weekend. The bid has already drawn sharp criticism from bipartisan lawmakers and Hollywood unions over concerns that it could lead to job cuts as well as higher prices for consumers.

Shares of Paramount were up 3.7% in morning trading following the company's bid. Warner Bros Discovery jumped 6.7%, while Netflix shares fell 3.6%.

Twists and turns

However, Paramount's bid could also face its own level of

scrutiny. A Paramount-Warner Bros combination would boost its dominant position in the studio business that some also worry could lead to job losses as the industry rapidly consolidates.

Reuters had already reported, citing sources familiar, that Paramount had raised its offer to \$30 per share on Thursday for the entire company, but that the Warner Bros board had concerns about the financing.

In its appeal to shareholders, Paramount said it submitted six proposals over the course of 12 weeks, but Warner Bros Discovery "never engaged meaningfully" with these proposals. The \$30 cash offer represents a 139% premium over the company's undisturbed stock price, and bests Netflix's \$27.75 offer that mixes cash and stock.

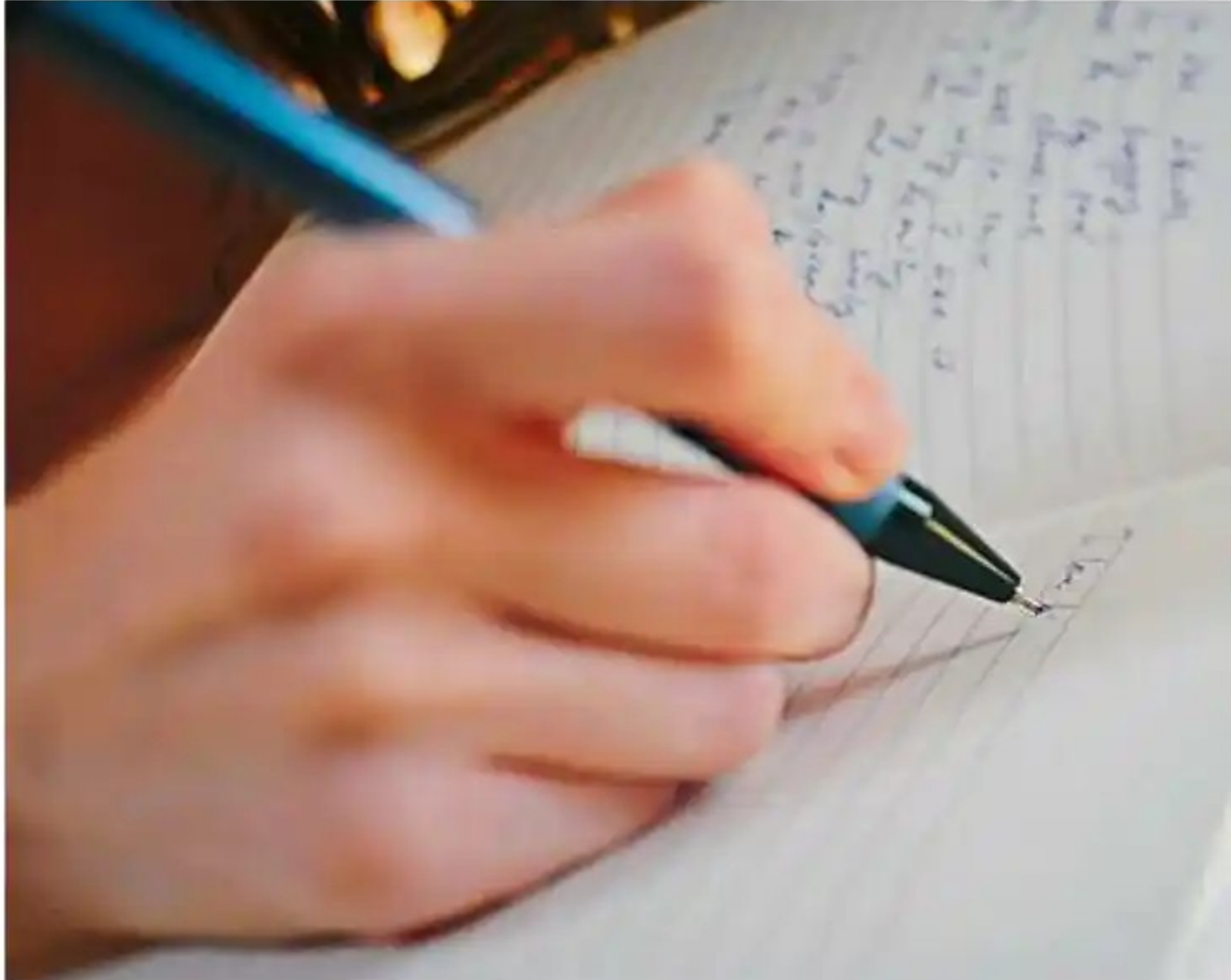
Journaling helps teachers engage students better

ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

For Triveni Nagaraj, journaling was a way of life even before she got into teaching. As a young adult, she kept a diary, recording her personal triumphs and travails. This early-years teacher in an International Baccalaureate (IB) school in Bengaluru believes that journaling is an integral aspect of her craft. She now maintains a journal for every child in her class, recording her observations and meaningful tidbits.

Both Triveni and her co-teacher have ready access to a sheaf of papers and a pen. If a child makes an intriguing comment or displays an unusual behaviour, either positive or negative, subtle or blatant, one of them usually jots it down. Whether it's a child who shows greater sitting tolerance, decodes a digraph for the first time or is unable to wait for their turn in a game, teachers try to record these moments. At the end of the day, they transfer their comments onto an Excel file, with a sheet for each child.

Triveni maintains a daily journal for two chil-



dren in her class who have special needs as she sends a weekly report to their parents. For other students, she makes entries around once in two weeks, so she has enough material to compile a detailed term-end report. She finds that parents are gratified to see these personalised reports that capture their child's progress in rounded and

authentic ways.

Akshatha Belludi, a Nursery and Grade I teacher in a CBSE school in Kalburgi, uses journaling as a form of self-reflection. Every night, she looks back on her day, trying to identify what clicked and what didn't during a lesson. This process allows her to critique and better her own teaching practices. For example, while journaling one night, she felt she hadn't reached every student during a lesson on writing poems with first-graders. So, she asked herself what else she could do to draw the attention of children who weren't engaged.

She also observes and takes notes on children during free play. These jottings help her prepare for parent-teacher meetings where she tries to provide a holistic picture of a child. For example, she noticed that one child initially refused to share toys but, after three months, began to do so readily.

Geetha Viswanatham, a special educator with 26 years of experience, avers that journaling is essential for documenting the progress of

children with learning difficulties. As educators need to both notice and acknowledge the small steps of progress these children make, it helps to maintain meticulous records of what transpires in each session.

Whether it's a child's ability to identify individual sounds, blend them, recognise sight words or words with different spelling patterns, Geetha keeps a tab of every detail and also makes notes on their attention span, behaviour, mood and conversational skills. Since she works one-on-one with a child, she is able to document each child's progress in various academic domains. She then refers to these entries while writing weekly and quarterly reports for parents or schools.

For Sreelekha Ramachandran, Headmistress at Omega School, Chennai, journaling is a form of "professional development" because it helps her reflect on and critique herself and her practice. Every night, she pens down her thoughts, feelings and experiences of the day. Every once in a while, she reads through her entries and gauges

her own 'progress' as an educator. Because memories are fallible and selective, journaling provides a record against which you can assess yourself. Journaling also helps her understand what falls within her control and makes her more self-aware when similar situations arise in the future. As a result, she can regulate her responses and be more deliberate.

She also encourages teachers in her school to take up journaling. As reflection usually allows you the time and space to consider a situation from multiple viewpoints, you become less judgmental of others. Difficult conversations with students, teachers or parents are easier to handle when you are more centred and balanced yourself, says Sreelekha.

While there is no one right way to journal, this practice can be beneficial for educators, as it is meditative, cathartic, and can also provide a record of events. If you are a teacher and haven't tried it, it might be worth giving it a shot. Given the educators' experiences in this article, you might get hooked, too.

When global dreams meet local challenges

The focus should be on meaningful academic exchanges, research partnerships, and benefits for students, writes Anitha Ramachander

responsibly and strategically?

Advantages

Having worked closely on international collaborations for many years, I have observed both the enthusiasm they generate and the challenges they quietly bring. International campuses in India will offer world-class education at a lower cost than studying abroad. Every year, millions of Indian students go overseas to find better academic environments, access to global faculty, research opportunities, and better job prospects. Now that foreign universities are opening campuses in India, students can access many of these benefits without leaving the country.

One of the main advantages is affordability. The cost of studying abroad can be high. Tuition, accommodation, travel, insurance, and living expenses can make global education inaccessible for many. However, when an international university operates in India, these costs decrease significantly. Students also gain exposure to modern teaching methods, including interdisciplinary learning, project-based coursework, flexible credit systems, and research-driven approaches, enhancing their communication, creativity, problem-solving skills, and overall job prospects.

When academic programmes are internationally recognised, students can pursue international mobility without relocating. If implemented effectively, this model could also reduce brain drain by providing top-tier opportunities within the country, encouraging talented students to contribute to India's academic and research development.

Obstacles

However, there are obstacles along the way. Studying abroad at a foreign campus can lower overall costs, but tuition fees are often higher than those at Indian universities. This can be expensive for some families. Maintaining high quality is essential. Regulators require international campuses to meet the same stand-



ards as those in other countries and avoid sacrificing quality for the Indian market. Strong, transparent monitoring systems are crucial for maintaining academic integrity. Cultural relevance adds another layer of complexity.

Curriculum models developed in other countries may not always fit India's social and economic realities, industry needs, or workforce expectations. Institutions must adapt their approach to local contexts while maintaining a global perspective. This transition will also increase competition among Indian institutions, but if managed effectively, it can foster innovation, improve academic offerings, and promote excellence.

Partnerships

A growing trend in this wave is the signing of MoUs with foreign institutions. Many

universities proudly showcase extensive lists of international partners on their websites and brochures. While these partnerships enhance visibility, many memoranda of understanding do not lead to meaningful academic engagement.

"The goal of internationalisation is to make things happen, not to collect memorandums of understanding. Students need to grasp how it will affect their skills, classrooms, and opportunities. A partnership is merely a piece of paper, not real collaboration, if it does not benefit students," observes Global Institute of Business Studies Chairman Ritesh Goyal. His comment highlights an important issue: internationalisation should be meaningful, active, and student-focused, rather than purely symbolic.

The demand for worldwide exposure is increasing rapidly. "With rapid chang-

es in the geopolitical landscape, future professionals need to reduce their career risks. One way to do this is to gain exposure to different regions and develop connections across countries. International collaborations offer opportunities for multicultural experiences and prepare individuals to work in multinational teams across various areas and time zones. With an ageing population in the West, India is well-positioned to become a talent hub for the global workforce," says Atish Chatterpadhyay, Director of IMT Ghaziabad.

Way forward

NEP 2020's focus on internationalisation is timely and aligns well with this global trend. For India to benefit, a targeted approach is vital. Many institutions still lack the necessary infrastructure for quality research. Bureaucratic hurdles often delay collaborations that could lead to breakthroughs.

Developing faculty is also essential. Teachers need to regularly update their knowledge of global trends and teaching methods to stay relevant.

Internationalisation should go beyond marketing; it must become a core goal for institutions. The focus should be on meaningful academic exchanges, strong research partnerships, and tangible benefits for students. Students should assess institutions not by the number of MoUs but by the quality of partnerships, active exchange programs, research output, presence of global faculty, industry relevance, and opportunities for skill development.

The internationalisation vision of NEP 2020 can transform Indian higher education, improve global competitiveness, and position India as a key player in the international knowledge economy if implemented with integrity and purpose. The journey has begun, but success relies on intentional actions, quality control, and a strong commitment to student development.

(The author is an academic)

BULLETIN BOARD

Video internship

NVAI Technologies is hiring video editing/making interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Adobe After Effects, Adobe Photoshop, and DaVinci Resolve can apply by January 3. The stipend is Rs 15,000-20,000 / month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/yikYT>.

Search Engine Optimisation internship

Serpclimber is hiring a search engine optimisation (SEO) intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of email marketing and SEO, and strong spoken and written English proficiency, can apply by January 3. The stipend is Rs 7,000/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/pEiUg>.

Business development internship

Peping.in is hiring Business Development (Sales) interns in Bangalore. Students who are effective communicators with good spoken and written English can apply by December 24. The stipend is Rs 8,000-10,000/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/SMfq7>.

Finance and accounting internship

Finzo Ventures Private Limited is hiring finance and accounting interns in Bengaluru. Students with proficient spoken and written English can apply by December 16. The stipend is Rs 8,000/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/ZF4p0>.

Suggestions? Feedback? Observations?

Email us: dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

The Yin and Yang of career planning

PAVAN SONI

The concept of Yin-Yang comes from ancient Chinese philosophy, which holds that nature is composed of forces that are opposites but complementary. In Indian culture, such drives are often represented as Shiva and Shakti, or as the pairing of Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (nature/energy). However, in Western theology or philosophy, there exists no concept of balance. The closest approximation is duality, which treats opposites as mutually exclusive rather than inseparable twins.

If one were to cast the work-life balance onto this framework, it becomes apparent that most treat it as dichotomous or mutually exclusive, rather than as Yin and Yang. Even within work, exploration and exploitation, as in learning and doing, are deemed as incongruous. But should that be the case?

In a highly cited paper, the organisational psychologist, James March, brought to the fore the case of simultaneous exploration and exploitation in an organisational context for its continued sustenance. Exploitation is about addressing the immediate opportunities with deftness, while exploration is about identifying and creating new growth opportunities. Exploitation is hinged on one's productive abilities, whereas exploration calls for creativity and inventiveness.

Juxtaposed to an individual's career, exploitation is honouring your current commitments, and exploration is in crafting future avenues of growth and self-development. As you might



surmise, exploration is complex. For one, there's no clear path, and additionally, the endeavour is ridden with risk. 'Why rock the boat?'—is the argument. As a result, countless people work themselves to redundancy.

Answer this: If given a choice between 'working for the company' and 'learning for yourself', what will you choose? Contrary to what most would claim, it's the company's interests that take precedence. Why? Working, as opposed to learning, offers immediate gratification in the form of a monthly salary, a pat on the back or a kick in the pants. Working is a lot more structured than learning, and, most importantly, it has a momentum that learning lacks.

It surprises no one that scores of employees must be threat-

ened to finish their 40 mandatory hours of learning per annum. Working 80 hours a week seems to be much more doable than learning 40 hours a year! This counterintuitive behaviour stems from the way learning is framed in organisations — it's additional, disparate from work, a distraction from the well-oiled treadmill and largely involuntary. How can employees be motivated to look at learning from the lens of self-interest rather than it being obligatory? Three practices.

Firstly, show the futility of exploitation, or just working at the same chip. If one can incessantly exploit what's known, then there's no urge to explore what's unknown or even unknowable. The diminishing returns of exploitation must be factored

into the fabric of work. It's how technology companies design planned obsolescence into their products. You can't use a version of your smartphone forever. It will slow down, by design. The same must be done to work — it must atrophy over time, giving way to new people and easing out the owner in the process.

Secondly, make learning a pursuit in self-mastery, and not an additional chore. Instead of encouraging the dichotomous view of doing vs. learning, let it be a natural extension, like the way exhalation follows inhalation. Exploration-exploitation is like walking, one foot in front of the other.

Lastly, don't reward learning. Rewarding a process that should instead happen spontaneously creates perverse incentives — eventually making it mechanical. Learning must be a reward in and of itself.

The Yin and Yang of corporate life are doing and learning. You learn something new, you perfect it over time, and then you transcend it to a higher altitude, or to another dimension. This graduation or migration is even more pronounced in the age of AI, where it's not another bloke awaiting your seat, but the very machine that you once operated is yearning to replace you.

In summary, learning for oneself is as important as working for the firm, and this must be made clear as one's responsibility. The firm can enable it, but not push a self-growth agenda. It must be framed as a continuous cycle of exploitation and exploration rather than one-off excursions. Alas, work can be automated, but learning can't. So, learn your way to relevance.

Handling harassment with sense and sensitivity

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON

When a teenager refused to continue her studies at the school she had attended since kindergarten, her parents enrolled her elsewhere. Their daughter was being bullied. Members of the faculty, if aware of her anguish, could not, or would not, attempt to alleviate it. Fortunately, the girl was removed from that toxic environment.

Exchanging one school for another, however, is not necessarily a solution. Bullies are found in several academic institutions, where they target kids whom they perceive as inferior to themselves. They generally pick on the shy and withdrawn, those without a strong circle of friends. Such children could be facing health issues or tension at home, but bullies lack consideration. They drive students, already perhaps suffering from low self-esteem, into depression. Those who experience physical and/or emotional abuse at school could be psychologically scarred for life.

Unfortunately, those thus tormented tend to believe that they have to undergo daily discomfort because their wrongs cannot be

redressed. They hope that the situation will improve, and when it does not, they silently endure maltreatment in the classroom and cafeteria, on the bus and on the sports field. They get pushed around, literally and metaphorically, and are scorned if they stumble, at work or at play. They might also be taunted if their appearance or accent does not conform to the standards set by the arrogant autocrats who hurt and humiliate them.

Since students who are being bullied may not seek help, it is up to their mentors to make the first move. Teachers should watch for signs of distress on a person's face or in their body language. Gentle probing is likely to elicit information, but the enquiry must be pursued with patience. A child may long to be free of the burden of bullying, but hesitate to disclose the identity of the offender. The refusal to 'snitch' may be honourable, but in this case, it is unacceptable. The teacher must obtain the name of the oppressor. This is not only to protect the person who is confiding in a sympathetic adult. It also ensures that a student who is upsetting others receives remedial attention.

In her book, 'Bullying', Carla Delos discusses various forms of bullying, ranging from relatively harmless pranks to acts of deliberate cruelty. She explains that the perpetrators of these misdeeds have no idea of the extent to which they impair the stability of those who are weak and vulnerable. If challenged, they defend themselves by saying, "It was only a joke," or "No one told me it was wrong," or "They deserved it." The writer points out that bullies must realise these are baseless excuses. Only then can they shake off the shackles of brutality that enslave them. Bullies require support as much as their victims.

Schools with student councils have an advantage in dealing with bullying, as prefects can assist teachers in addressing the problem. Even in the absence of elected leaders, monitors will be appointed to maintain discipline. If they observe that a child seems consistently unhappy at school, they should urge the child to bring this to the teachers' notice. A few responsible students, trusted by their teachers and popular with their peers, can bring about whole-some change.

Not on their own, of course! For that matter, teachers, too, may not be qualified to address bullying without guidance and input from caring and competent counsellors. Regular talk-therapy sessions will definitely be useful, with the 'terrors' of the school encouraged to voice their views. Those wayward youngsters must be made to understand that they will not be dreaded and disliked if they stop bullying and start befriending!

(The author is a long-standing educator)



IN BRIEF

India fined for slow over-rate

► India were on Monday fined 10 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against South Africa in the second ODI in Raipur, reports PTI from Dubai.

India lost that match as South Africa squared the three-match series at 1-1. India won the Visakhapatnam ODI to clinch the series.

CBSE, M'shtra finish first

► Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Maharashtra emerged victorious in the under-19 boys' and girls' in the 69th National School Games Chess Championship at the Greenwood High International School in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Maharashtra finished runners-up in the boys' selection, while CBSE came second in the corresponding girls' category.

DYES B thrash SAISTC 6-1

► Lithu R scored a hat-trick as Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports B thrashed SAI Training Centre A 6-1 in the Hockey Karnataka Namdhari Cup on Monday, reports DHNS.

Results: DYES B: 6 (Akhlil Mutagar 7th, Lithu R 19th, 56th, 60th, Srivinas Thalwar 50th, Prem Kumar 57th) bt SAI STC: 1 (Prem Kumar 57th); Canara Bank: 5 (Abhishek 6th, Bipin BR 24th, 36th, Nitesh Sharma 40th, Rathan Munthanna 41st) bt Postal: 2 (Sri Rama 19th, Chethan Chinnappa 52nd).

Samarth steers Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS: A day after an even battle with Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka's Samarth Kulkarni took all four wickets in the morning session to complete a six-wicket haul and bundle out their rivals for 292 on Day 2 of their Vijay Merchant Trophy's elite group fixture in Raipur.

MP could only add 13 runs to their overnight total with Samarth (6-47) removing a set Atharv Patel (70), who scored just three on the day.

In response, Karnataka ended the day on 243/5 (trailing by 49 runs) with 50-up Aaryasinih Chavda (62 n.o.) on the crease after R Rohith Reddy (71) made the much-needed momentum top of the order.

Brief scores: Madhya Pradesh: (On: 269/6): 292 all out in 94 overs (Kushagra Nagar 62, Arnay Ghodgaonkar 71, Atharv Patel 70, Ritik Parab 37; Vikram 2-87, Samarth M Kulkarni 6-47) vs Karnataka: 243/5 in 76 overs (R Rohith Reddy 71, Aaryasinih N Chavda 62 n.o., Sukurth J 49; Naitik Jain 3-70).

Naresh, Bijoya champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian Navy's Naresh Thapa and Bijoya Barman emerged champions in the men's and women's categories respectively of the Bengaluru Midnight Marathon on Sunday.

Naresh clocked 3:41:08 seconds while Bijoya completed the race with a timing of 3:35:34.

Results: Full Marathon: Men's: Naresh Thapa 3:41:08, 1; Naveen Kumar 3:46:14, 2; Dakynmawlang Warjri 3:48:31, 3. **Women's:** Bijoya Barman 3:35:34, 1; Krishna Kohli 4:15:30, 2; Sapna Agarwal 4:26:01, 3.

ON TV

- CRICKET**
2nd Test: New Zealand vs West Indies (Day 1, 3:30 am Wednesday). **LIVE on Sony Sports Network and FanCode.**
- FOOTBALL**
Champions League: Kairat Almaty vs Olympiacos (11:15 pm), Atalanta vs Chelsea, Barcelona vs Frankfurt, Inter vs Liverpool (all 1:30 am, Wednesday). **LIVE on Sony Sports Network and SonyLIV.**
- HOCKEY**
Women's Junior World Cup: Germany vs Argentina (4:45 am, quarterfinals). **LIVE on Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**
- FIH Pro League:** Germany vs Belgium (men's, 5:00 pm), England vs Belgium (women's, 7:30 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

Fit-again Hardik, Gill back to bolster hosts against SA

CUTTACK, PTI

The return of Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya will lend fresh sheen and much-needed completeness to reigning world champions India when they begin their official march towards the home T20 World Cup with the opening match of a five-game series against South Africa here on Tuesday.

This series marks the start of India's formal build-up to the February showpiece, where they will play 10 T20Is -- five against South Africa followed by another five against New Zealand -- before opening their title defence against the USA at the Wankhede on February 7.

The defending champions will look to enter this phase with clarity of intent as they refine roles, streamline combinations and settle the XI that will carry the weight of expectations in front of home crowds.

India have been a formidable T20I unit post their World Cup triumph in the format last year, where they won eight matches in a row to lift the title.

Since then, they have extended their tally to 26 wins with only four losses, including a seven-match streak during their Asia Cup victory in Dubai. They have not lost a T20I series in this period, and with only minor tweaks needed, they will be hoping to sharpen the edges against the side they defeated in the T20 World Cup final.

Gill's return comes after he missed almost a month of cricket owing to a neck spasm suffered while attempting a slogsweep during the opening Test against the Proteas.

Having played non-stop cricket since the last IPL and with India facing a packed

SCHEDULE
■ 1st T20I: Dec 9 (Cuttack)
■ 2nd T20I: Dec 11 (New Chandigarh)
■ 3rd T20I: Dec 14 (Dharamsala)
■ 4th T20I: Dec 17 (Lucknow)
■ 5th T20I: Dec 19 (Ahmedabad)
■ All matches start at 7 pm and Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar.

season ahead, his workload management will be closely monitored. But for Gill, who has 837 runs from 33 T20Is at an average of 29.89, this series also doubles up as vital preparation heading into the ICC event.

His reunion with Abhishek Sharma brings back a high-impact opening pair that marries brute force with clean, classical strokeplay.

Abhishek, fresh from a standout tour of Australia where he topped India's scoring charts with 163 runs in the 2-1 victory, has been in monstrous domestic touch. In the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s, the Punjab left-hander hammered 304 runs at an average of 50.66 and a staggering strike rate of 249-plus, including a breath-taking 52-ball 148 against Bengal as Punjab posted 310/5.

Teams (from): India: Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Shubman Gill (vice-capt), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Hardik Pandya, Akar Patel, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarty. **South Africa:** Aiden Markram (capt), Ottneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, George Linde, Keshav Maharaj, Kwena Maphaka, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Tristan Stubbs.



India openers and close friends Shubman Gill (left) and Abhishek Sharma in a jovial mood during a training session on the eve of the first T20I against South Africa in Cuttack on Monday. PTI

SKY welcomes Hardik's return

CUTTACK, PTI

India captain Suryakumar Yadav believes Hardik Pandya's return will restore the tactical depth and balance that shaped the team's Asia Cup surge when the world champions take on South Africa in a five-match T20I series starting here on Tuesday.

The ace India seam-bowling all-rounder, who sustained a left quadriceps injury and missed the World Cup final, is fully fit and in fine form after making his comeback in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

His timely return ahead of next year's T20 World Cup has brought back the much-needed flexibility and balance, with his new-ball spells offering India the cushion to field three, even four spinners.

"I think what you saw in the Asia Cup also, when he was bowling the new ball, he



Suryakumar Yadav

opened a lot of options, lot of combinations for us with respect to playing XI," Suryakumar said on the eve of the series-opening

T20I here.

"That's what he brings to the table. His experience, the way he has done really well in all the matches, all good games also, all bigger games in ICC events."

"I think that experience will count a lot. His presence will definitely give a good balance to the side."

Incidentally, Pandya, who landed a day early in Cuttack and trained solo at Barabati Stadium, skipped the optional session on Monday, but the skipper confirmed that both he and Shubman Gill -- returning from a neck spasm -- are avail-

able. "Right now, both of them look healthy and fit," Suryakumar said.

For India, this series is the start of a ten match run into the home T20 World Cup in February, but Suryakumar said the groundwork was laid long back.

"Our 2026 T20 World Cup preparation began right after we won the T20 World Cup in 2024... Our preparation is similar. The preparation started after the T20 World Cup 2024 got over. Since then, we have been trying new things and everything is working for us."

He underlined that India's recent success stems from consistency of selection.

"I feel in the last five-six series which we have played, we have tried and played with a similar combination. We have not changed too much... Everything is going well. We wanted to continue the same way."

Gill 'feeling better' after rehab

Having recovered from a nasty neck injury, Shubman Gill is feeling good ahead of his comeback in the T20 International series against South Africa after undergoing extensive rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, reports PTI from Cuttack.

"I'm feeling much better. I think the day that I came here, from that day till today, I've had quite a bit of skill sessions and some training sessions. So, I feel much, much better," Gill told 'bcci.tv'.

The BCCI also shared visuals of Gill's training and rehabilitation under the supervision of strength and conditioning coach S Rajnikanth.

Aussies adapt to destroy England

BRISBANE, AFP

Australia's ability to adapt and rise in key moments has thrust them to the cusp of retaining the Ashes, with Steve Smith (in pic) saying it is a process they have fine-tuned.

The hosts are firmly in the box seat against a ragged England after winning the first two Tests at Perth and Brisbane, both by eight wickets.

They head to Adelaide for the third encounter beginning on December 17 planning more of the same to secure the five-Test series for the fourth consecutive time on home soil.

The wily Smith, who captained the side in both Tests while Pat Cummins recovered from a back injury, said Australia's experience had come to the fore during crunch periods so far.

"We've identified (those) moments in the game and

made the most of them," he told reporters. "I think that's one thing this team's done for the last four years. "We play 'live'. We adapt on the go, instead of getting back in the sheds and going: 'We should have done this'."

"Sometimes it's just playing the long game. I think we've just adapted so well the last couple of years, and played in real time, I suppose."

In contrast, England stumbled when it mattered most, leading skipper Ben Stokes to question their mentality under pressure.

England are now faced with having to win a near-impossible three Tests in a row.

And they have not won a Test on Australian soil since the 2010-11 series, losing 15 and drawing two. "When we are on top, we are great, and when behind the game we are also very good, but when the moment is neck-and-neck, we are not coming out on top on enough occasions," he said.



Tripura stun sloppy Karnataka

Murasingh smashes 35-ball 69 as minnows power home in Super Over

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka ended their modest Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign on a horrendous note as they went down to Tripura in a Super Over at the Narendra Modi Stadium B Ground on Monday.

Pravin Dubey's bowling burst with a 2/6 in two overs and a Manisankar Murasingh (69, 35b, 2x4, 4x6) run out proved vital as Karnataka managed to restrict Tripura to 197 for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs, before Sridam Paul came to the firing party in the Super Over, scoring 16 from just four balls as Mayank Agarwal's men failed to chase down 23.

After winning the toss and opting to have a bat, Karnataka



Tripura's Manisankar Murasingh scored a superb 35-ball 69 to fashion his side's stunning win over Karnataka on Monday. x

ka got off to a fiery start as the attack started with Sharath BR (44, 20b, 6x4, 2x6), who scored at the rate of knots and helped the side put on a 59-run opening stand with Agarwal (29).

The carnage continued as Devdutt Padikkal (32, 23b, 1x4, 2x6), Macneil Noronha (34, 21b, 1x4, 3x6) and Smaran R (24, 11b, 1x4, 2x6) carried Karnataka to 197 for seven in 20 overs.

Chasing a steep 198-run target for four points, Hanuma Vihari (36, 19b, 6x4, 1x6) and Sidram (28, 15b, 4x4, 1x6) pressed the accelerator early and stitched a 65-run partnership before the latter was dismissed by Shubhang Hegde.

Macneil, Shubhang and Pravin picked up wickets at crucial junctures in the middle but it was Mura's blitzkrieg that brought Tripura back in the

Sakshya wins bronze

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka paddler Sakshya Santosh clinched a well-earned bronze medal in the Youth Girls category at the National Ranking tournament held in Ranchi, capping off an impressive run at the event.

Sakshya began her campaign strongly, producing a commanding performance in the quarterfinals to defeat Moksha of Haryana 3-0.

Her semifinal clash against Aadhyaa proved to be a tightly fought encounter, with Sakshya pushing every game into intense territory. Despite a spirited fightback, she narrowly went down 15-13, 11-9, 2-11, 12-10, settling for bronze after a fighting effort.

Zorawar finishes seventh

DOHA, PTI

Zorawar Singh Sandhu finished seventh in the men's trap final with seven hits in first 10 targets, as India concluded their best-ever campaign at ISSF World Cup Final with six medals, including two gold, here Monday.

World Championship bronze medallist Zorawar was the only Indian representative on the concluding shotgun day at the Lusail Shooting complex.

Zorawar entered the final, which now comprises eight shooters instead of the earlier six as per new ISSF rules, with a score of 119 in qualifying, which gave him the sixth place over 125 targets.

In the 30-shot final, he could



Zorawar Singh Sandhu

not get his act together and was among the first two, alongside Italian Giovanni Pellielo, to bow out.

China topped the standings ahead of India, with four gold and nine medals. USA with their double gold in men's trap and skeet on the day, came third.

Suresh ton seals win for Bangalore Star

BENGALURU, DHNS: Suresh L.S showed his composure with a century while chasing as Bangalore Star defeated Magadi Cricket Club by five wickets in the latest round of matches of the KSCA Metro Shield Group I - IV division league-cum-knockout tournament.



Brief scores: Magadi CC: 240 all out in 49.5 overs (Vijay Subramanya 32, Sarafraj Ilabadi 76; Karthik Rathod 3-36) It to Bangalore Star CA: 241/5 in 43.1 overs (Vijay Kumar K 37, Suresh L.S 100, Rahul Singhe 43).

Crescent CC (1): 285 all out in 49.1 overs (Kashish CH 31, Rubesh Babu 27, Nagesh Nayaka 40, Chethan KL 45, Gagan CM 87 n.o.; Manjunath S 3-28, Srikrishna RN 2-36, Siddharth Gurav 4-57) bt Young Pioneer CC: 199 all out in 39.3 overs (Ayush M Patil 34, Siddharth Gurav 46, Shiven Gupta 33; Abdul Bari 3-39, Vasanth Kumar S 2-28).

Elite Blues CC: 195 all out in 43.4 overs (Nirmal Tejaswi S 27, Ishan Chanana 24, Purushotham Raghu 34; Shiva Kumar D 2-44, Ramesh S 3-24, Hardik Raghav 2-0) bt YFA SC: 180 all out in 38 overs (Sangam Dinesh Reddy 28, Adarsh V Hiremath 34, Shashank Dubey 42; Om Agarwalla 3-49, Ishan Chanana 3-38).

Dolphin Cricketers: 212/9 in 50 overs (Ayaan Kumar 26, Deepak Chauhan 27, Rohan BC 48, Vratisen Padi 34 n.o.; Sandeep Kumar R 2-28, Keshav S Raghavan 2-45, Suresh Krishnan 3-36, Gourav Babbar 2-35) bt Zodiac CC: 162/9 in 50 overs (Pavan Yadav M 26; Ayaan Sharmad Kumar 4-19, Rohan BC 3-27).

Jaidur Cricketers: 148 all out in 34 overs (Devaraju BC 26, Vinay Kumar K 26; Gowtham NJ 3-48, Sachin Handi 2-18, Shashank SJ 4-29) It to Merchants CC (2): 152/6 in 38.2 overs (Bharath Kalachar 38, Omkar Patil 43 n.o., Gowtham NJ 32; Saptagiri MS 3-23).

Victory CC: 183 all out in 47.4 overs (Jayanth N 27, Prithvi Raj MR 46, Arnay Ravindra Dere 33; Punith Kumar G 2-35, Chethan CV 2-42, Hanshal SM 3-35) bt City Cricketers (1): 164 all out in 39.2 overs (Vinay BC 29, S Chethan 86; Arnay Ravindra Dere 2-27, Rajath Nag VN 2-28, Vishwesh S Alagundagi 3-31, Jayanth N 2-44).

Southern Cricketers: 277/9 in 50 overs (R Praveen Kumar 69, Duke Kaveri BP 53; Syed Pasha 4-27, Sha Mudassir Uddin 2-51) bt Silky Town CC, Channapatna: 202 all out in 43.2 overs (Sha Mudassir Uddin 32, Yogendra Gowda 29, Syed Pasha 32, Venkatesh 2-35, Manjunath T 2-9, Adarsh S 3-52).

Merchant CC (1): 266 all out in 46.4 overs (Raghavendra H 41, Pavan Golgeri 93, Karan Kumar Sharma 39; CB Kumar 3-56, Pranav Preetham JA 2-40, Mayur Pojary 3-41) bt Jeevan-bhimangan CC: 158 all out in 36.5 overs (Aarav Bajaj 37, Preetham P 49; Sathish S 6-43, Vishwa S 2-24).

Sirupark SC: 226 all out in 42.2 overs (Mayur B 32, Srikanth H 100, Prabhu Sasalatti 42; Arpith Naganand 2-30, Gaurav Thorat 4-42) bt Select Cricketers: 162 all out in 33.5 overs (Vikas Chanalia 27, Vishal Kumar 46, Tarunkumar 27; Sree Roopesh 3-16, Sanjay Gorur 3-29, Venukumar R 2-34).

Star SC, Nelamangala: 210 all out in 44.4 overs (Shashank P 45, Nikhil Gowda 35, Yashash S Rao 30, Nagesh SK 38 n.o.; Karthik Kumar 2-39, Mohammad Rayan 2-26, Rohit V 4-60) bt BEL Colony Recreation Club: 209 all out in 43.4 overs (Manish Gowda A 81, Shahid SK 51; Nagesh SH 4-38, Manoj BR 2-24, Manjesh M 3-44).

Huttons CC: 115 all out in 23.4 overs (Adnan Asad 31, Abdul Rahman Anas 31 n.o.; Kushal C 3-39, Akshay Bharadwaj 5-16) It to Sangam Cricket Association: 116/1 in 15.5 overs (Deepak Shridhar 64, Mittun S Patil 43 n.o.).

Duleep Cricketers: 96 all out in 39 overs (Bharath M 55 n.o.; Santhosh 2-25, KM Bhannu Prakash 3-22, Shivnaryayan Sahani 2-15, Abhishek M 2-10) It to Freelancers Cricket Club: 97/8 in 20 overs (Roshan Kumar 4-30, Zamir Ahamed 2-17).

Monish, Bhuvan star for Triveni

BENGALURU, DHNS: Monish bagged 6/17 and Bhuvan Shekhar Gowda slammed an unbeaten 77 to power Triveni Memorial Educational Trust to a facile six-wicket win over Ryan International School, Kundanahalli in the KM Ramprasad Shield under-16 2nd Division tournament here.

Brief scores: Ryan International School, Kundanahalli: 204 all out in 47.3 overs (Ganesh Subramani 59, SV Aarya 43, Sameer P Kulkarni 49; Monish P 6-17, Manish Balaji 2-40) It to Triveni Memorial Educational Trust: 206/4 in 43.5 overs (Preetam Mishrikoti 41, Bhuvan Shekhar Gowda 77 n.o., Bhuvan Tejas N 35).

Jain International Residential School: 76 all out in 28.2 overs (Raghav JK 4-25; Abhay Samarth 2-20, K Devansh Shah 2-10) It to Vidyaniketan School: 77/3 in 11.5 overs (Alankrit Yadav 3-11).

Florence Public School: 117 all out in 27.2 overs (Zayed Ahmed 36; Kaushik Somashekar 3-11, P Goutham 6-24) It to The Cathedral Church: 118/4 in 19.5 overs (Adithya Rajanna Krishna 25, Akshay Babu 30 n.o., Puneeth J 29 n.o., Aditya Raj 4-51).

The Regency Public School: 232 all out in 47 overs (Shreyas N Shetty 34, Eshan Tiwari 36, Harsha Hiremath 42, Samarth Ramesh 42, Haren Narisur 2-31, Tejas Kini 4-31, Harsha Vuppallapati 2-40) bt Innisfree House School: 125 all out in 24.2 overs (Datta Dhanush P Sastri 36; Vaibhav Vedanth J 5-38, Samarth Ramesh 3-32).

National Public School, Yeshwanthpur: 73 all out in 38.2 overs (Vishnu Satish Belawadi 2-13, V Sumukha 5-25) It to Vidyaniketan Public School, Ullal: 74/4 in 13.5 overs (Daksh M Unni 30 n.o., Advik Srinivas 2-39).

HOCKEY JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Spain breathe the team spirit

Red Sticks buzzing with confidence ahead of final

Stride FC stroll past Jawahar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Gin-neithang Gangte, TH Imran Khan, Bradley Clifford Joseph Feegrado and Iainehlang Mawblei scored a goal each as Stride FC beat Jawahar Union 4-0 in the BDFA A Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

Ginneithang broke the deadlock and opened the floodgates in the 49th minute, while Imran and Bradley scored two goals in two minutes to make it 3-0 by the 53rd minute. Mawblei added another in the 70th minute to cap off a brilliant game.

In the day's other games, Sniper FC beat Roots FC 1-0, while RWF FC defeated BTM FC 2-1.

Rajesh S scored in the first half while Robinson M doubled the lead after the break. **Results:** Stride FC: 4 (Ginneithang Gangte 49th, TH Imran Khan 51st, Bradley Clifford Joseph Feegrado 52nd, Iainehlang Mawblei 70th) bt Jawahar Union: 0; Sniper FC: 1 (Don Davis 48th) bt Roots FS: 0; RWF FC: 2 (Rajesh S 12th, Robinson M 62nd) bt BTM FC: 1 (Rajveer Jayasheela Ballal 86th own goal).

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Fortune, as they say, favours the brave. And who better to validate this adage than the Spanish under-21 boys' team at the ongoing FIH Men's Junior World Cup here.

Physically not as muscular or tall, legs that aren't the fastest, players from a country with football as the dominant sport. Such 'drawbacks' could do little to stop the Red Sticks from marching into their maiden final of the event. On the contrary, Spain have capitalised on good chemistry among the players, complete trust in their coach Oriol Puig Torras and concentrating only on their own strengths.

"We are complete animals and that's why we arrived in the final," says co-captain Guiu Corominas who shares leadership duties with Pablo Roman for the world No. 4 side. "Our team has a mix of experience and youngsters. We like to go to the pitch and we know our identity."

The identity, Corominas is referring to, is the Spanish players' skillful stick work, ability to design variations, control possession through a pass and play pattern, all of which enable them to flow as a single force. These qualities troubled opponents both in the pool stages and during their wins in knockout stages, including Argentina in semis.

"You see in Spain, there's a lot more emphasis on technical abilities. May be it's a culture," points out coach Torras. "Obviously for me it's more difficult to create technical players than strong

players. You can go to the gym four times, make it a routine."

Thankfully for Torras, technique is developed naturally in all Spanish hockey players who mostly come from Terrassa — a city situated about 30 kms northwest of Barcelona.

"When you walk through the streets of Terrassa, the children are always with a stick in their hands. It is more of a tradition than passion," says Torras who also belongs to Terrassa.

Incidentally, 14-15 players (including skipper Corominas) in the Spanish set-up are Catalans with three from Madrid and two from Bilbao.

Five hurdles crossed and one remains. For a team that made it to the knockouts as one of the second-best-placed teams from the pool stage, Spain are conscious of the gigantic champion team they are up against in the final.

"For me, Germany is the best team. Not for this tournament, but for the history and for the last two years," said the coach. "I think my players will play good in the final because it's their day. I will tell you why."

"We have two players now with small injuries, but they told me: 'Ori, don't worry. We can run, we can compete, we can enjoy and we can win.' So for me, this is enough for Wednesday. It's not about being tactical or we play with 4-4-2 or we can press. No, no, no. It's about the Spanish identity (of never giving up and always up for a challenge)," Torras stresses.

A tussle between muscle and heart; structure and skill awaits.



Wearing their heart on their sleeves, Spain will hope to cross the final hurdle against Germany on Wednesday to lift their maiden Junior World Cup title. HI MEDIA

We forgot our own game: Sreejesh

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Being blatantly critical of the Indian colts for their humiliating 1-5 semifinal defeat against Germany in the FIH Men's Junior World Cup is the easy part. But accepting that the European opponents were the superior side, banking on precise preparation, structural and tactical finesse and unwavering mental fortitude is the tough part.

Did the world No. 1's brilliance make the world No. 2 look mediocre? Sure, it did. What the German drubbing also did was to offer a reality check on how undercooked India still are.

The heaviness of the loss

and the manner in which his boys succumbed was glaring on head coach PR Sreejesh's face at the end of the last-four game on Sunday.

"We didn't play well, that's it. We gave them easy opportunities, silly mistakes, conceded goals. And it is quite hard for these guys to bounce back when they concede easy goals early on," said Sreejesh at the post-match interaction.

"In the first quarter, Germany came out with very high intensity. Our players struggled to match up with that, in the mid-field especially. I told my players



PR Sreejesh

not to allow them to get into the centre. And they allowed that. They just played through the centre and they created opportunities. That's one area where I felt really bad."

So is their a cue for the Indians to take away from the disciplined German team, whose methodical approach intimidates rivals?

"I just want my players to play my way. Because we can't copy-paste anybody's game. And Indians, we do have our own flavour, our own game style."

"We forget to do that. That's the issue. So when you are playing up to their game, it's quite easy for them to match up," analysed two-time bronze medal-winner Sreejesh.



Liverpool seek revival against Inter

GENEVA, AP

Champions League clash between Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland will surely happen in the final one day.

On Wednesday, it is a routine league-phase game when Real Madrid host Manchester City and the most feared forwards in football cross paths for the third time in the competition since Haaland debuted in 2019.

Also this week, Liverpool bring their season of turmoil to Milan against Inter on Tuesday as Mohamed Salah has been dropped from Liverpool's squad for their away tie following incendiary remarks about his relationship with Arne Slot and his treatment by the club.

The Egypt forward was not included in the squad announced by Liverpool on Monday, despite training earlier in the day with the first team.

Also, Bayern Munich will host Sporting Lisbon on Tuesday and Paris Saint-Germain are at Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday.

Salah said he felt like he had



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (second from right) was dropped from the squad despite training with the team on Monday. AFP

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been "thrown under the bus" by Liverpool and that he no longer had a relationship with Slot after he was left on the bench for the third consecutive game.

Tuesday's fixtures: Kairat vs Olympiacos, Bayern vs Sporting (both 11:15 pm); Inter vs Liverpool, Atalanta vs Chelsea, Barca vs Frankfurt, Tottenham vs Slavia, PSV vs Atletico, Monaco vs Galatasaray, USG vs Marseille (all 1:30 am).

India beat Wales to stay in top 10 race

SANTIAGO, PTI: Out of quarter-final contention, India defeated Wales 3-1 to remain in the hunt for a ninth-place finish at the FIH Junior Women's World Cup here.

Hina Bano (14'), Sunelita

Toppo (24'), and Ishika (31') scored for India, while Eloise Moat (52') netted the lone goal for Wales. India had logged two wins and a loss to finish outside the top eight in the pool stage.

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